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TENSIONS IGNITE



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Volunteer Naddine Madell-Morgan by the festival's latest sign. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

TAKE A REST AT FOLK FEST

Sunny forecast for downtown show **metroNEWS**

Police ask for 50 more recruits

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Calgary crime severity index jumps 29%

 **Jeremy Simes**
For Metro | Calgary

The City of Calgary could approve funding for 50 new officers at the next council meeting on Monday.

The request for more boots on the ground comes on the heels of a new StatsCan report that shows Calgary's crime severity index (CSI) rate saw a 29 per cent increase in 2015. In 2014, there was a 0.58 per cent decrease.

Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart, the city's police commissioner, said police resources have been spread thin, referencing the growing CSI rate, which measures the volume and severity of

police-reported crime.

"You get into a situation where the police are becoming more and more reactive, and moving more and more away from community-based policing," she said.

According to a city report, the Calgary Police Service (CPS) is requesting the approval of \$7.5 million in expenditures beginning in 2017 to create 50 new positions and allow a contribution of \$10.5 million to the CPS's pay-as-you-go fund capital reserve in 2016.

The approval of \$7.5 million is considered "net-zero" because expenditure increase is funded through additional fine revenues.

Colley-Urquhart said she'd like funding as soon as possible because it takes about one year to train new recruits.

The report noted the CPS didn't add positions to the force in 2016 and only 10 in 2015.

More coverage, p. 10

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Pedestrian texting ban unlikely to have legs

ROAD SAFETY

Little appetite for a law that would be 'hard to impose'

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Toronto city councillors are seriously considering a ban on texting while walking; however the appetite for such a ban isn't as strong in Calgary.

The Ontario provincial government gave the city the green light on the proposal last week, saying it isn't interested in a similar provincial ban.

Not surprisingly, Kimberly Nelson with Walk Calgary isn't keen on the idea at all.

The pedestrian advocate said police should focus on drivers who are still texting while behind the wheel.

"Part of the reason millennials are not getting their drivers licences is because they would much rather be using their devices," said Nelson.

She said in a world where we're trying to encourage people to get out and get more exercise, the fact that you're allowed to use your cellphone while walking to your destination is a great excuse to walk.

Ward 1 Coun. Ward Suth-



Toronto is considering a ban on texting while walking — but there seems little likelihood of one being enforced here in Calgary. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

erland floated the idea of a texting-while-walking bylaw for Calgary in 2014. Now he says he believes the police have the power they need without enacting a special bylaw.

"Basically — the police said they have the capacity now if the individual is not paying attention," said Sutherland. "They could just put it under the existing regulation."

He noted that the rules apply to when a pedestrian is crossing the street — which is what Toronto wants to address.

Sutherland said there are an increasing number of pedestrians who are being hurt because they are distracted by their devices, or even by wearing earbuds.

He's more interested in

I don't know if they're chasing Pokémons ... but everyone's looking at their phones. Sgt. Paul Stacey



MURDER TRIAL

Process concerns lawyer

The lawyer for a man accused of killing a Calgary woman and her five-year-old daughter says he's worried the case will be tried in the media and not in a courtroom.

"We do have a principle in this country that people are tried in a courtroom before a jury of their peers and we would like that to be the way this proceeds," defence lawyer Gavin Wolch told reporters after his client, Edward Downey, made a brief appearance by closed-circuit television on Wednesday.

Police announced first-degree murder charges against Downey last Thursday in the deaths of Sara Baillie and Taliyah Marsman. Baillie, who was 34, was found dead in her northwest Calgary home on July 11 and an Amber Alert was issued for Taliyah. The little girl's body was found three days later in a rural area east of Calgary.

Downey looked straight ahead during his brief appearance and walked briskly out of the room once it was over. Wolch said he wants to move quickly to trial. He added that he is concerned about the amount of information about his client that's been in the news — from details about his criminal past to images of him being led by police officers in a blue jumpsuit.

"I can tell you that he was not on any form of parole or release at the time" he was charged, Wolch said. "We want this to be something that is tried in court with due process."

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Stark stats show city in flux

ECONOMY

Population, vacancy rates show growth is slowing

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

As the economic downturn drags on, Calgary's census paints the picture of a changed city.

Compared to last year's statistics, our population growth has slowed, the vacancy rate has nearly doubled — but housing builds rose slightly. Even the number of cats and dogs took a turn.

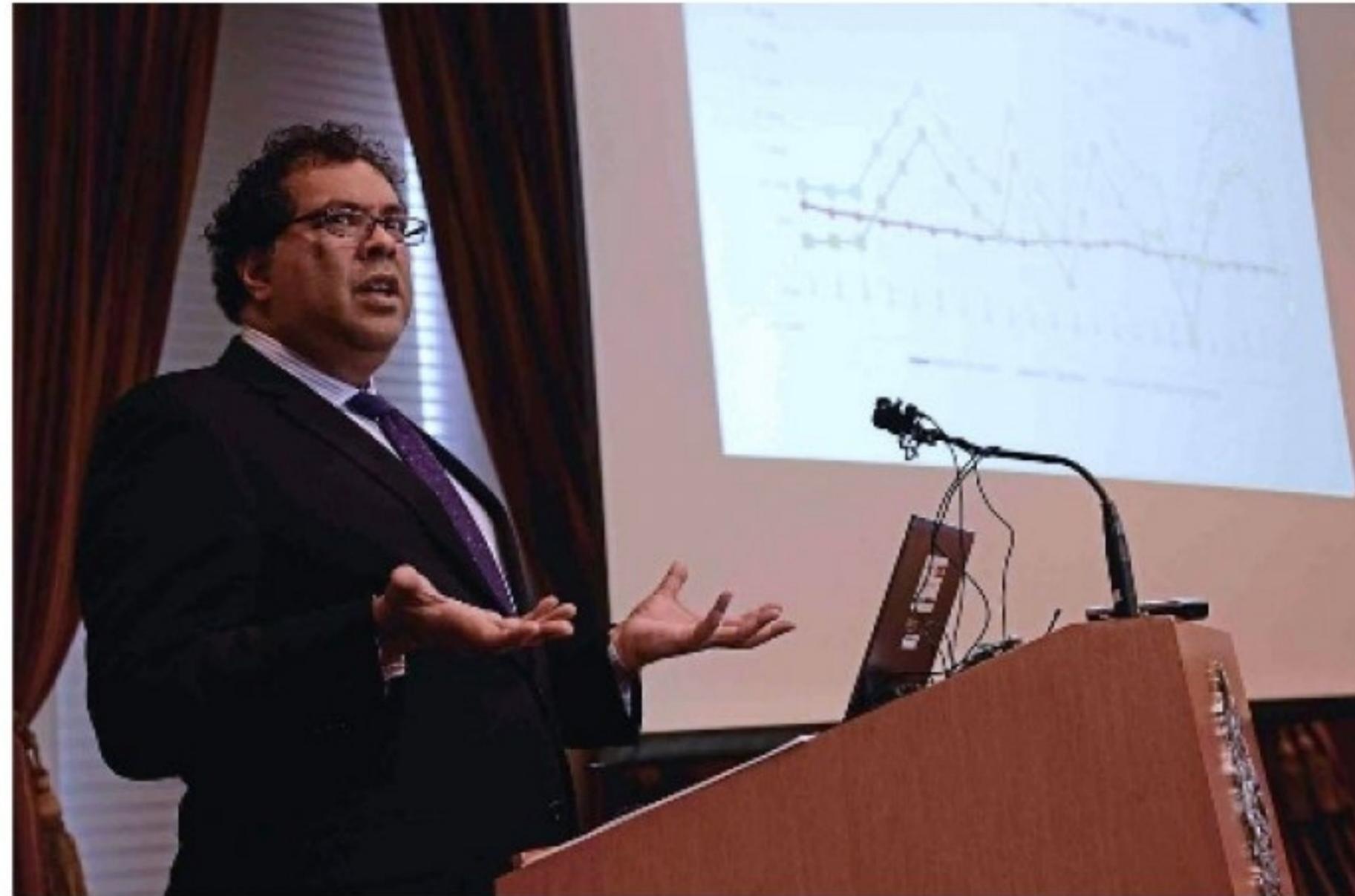
In 2016, Calgary saw a population growth of 4,256 residents with 1,235,171 of us now living in the city, an increase of 0.36 per cent — down from last year's three per cent population increase.

The vacancy rate, which a few years ago sat at nearly zero, has doubled to 4.30 per cent from 2.64 per cent in 2015. Housing starts are up 1.32 per cent.

But Mayor Naheed Nenshi said these stats aren't necessarily concerning — yet.

"The action plan, which we passed in 2014, was predicated on population growth of 25,000 per year, and in the first two years we had nearly 40,000 per year," said Nenshi. "If you look at this net increase of 5,000, that means in total over three years we're just over 75,000 and we've budgeted for 75,000."

The city has caught up to itself, which the mayor said isn't bad news. What he warned



Mayor Naheed Nenshi presents the 2016 city census data. HELEN PIKE/METRO

about is the stable population growth persisting into the 2019 budget cycle. That would mean the assumptions will have to change.

Trevor Tombe, assistant professor of economics at the University of Calgary, said this is the smallest population growth the city has seen since 1990.

He said he's surprised to see these figures, as the province as a whole is trending upwards for population.

"Alberta, in the last quarter of data released by Statistics Canada, had population growth that exceeded any other province," said Tombe. He added it's hard to tell why that is, but noted Edmonton's employment is trending up, while Calgary's employment levels are going down.



The action plan, which we passed in 2014, was predicated on population growth of 25,000 per year, and in the first two years we had nearly 40,000 per year.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi on the upside of the data

stable population growth because the infrastructure is still required.

"We've reversed that trend quite significantly over time, and I don't anticipate that will change, but it's something I want to look at," said Nenshi.

These statistics give the city a more educated glance in their decision-making process. The census covers the period from April 2015 to April 2016. Data was collected online and door-to-door. 98,849 households were part of the data collected.

JOBS

Fewest employed since '96

Calgary's employment numbers continue to drop in the economic downturn and, according to the 2016 census, are at their lowest since 1996.

According to the 2016 census numbers, 63.52 per cent of Calgary's population over the age of 15 are employed. That's down from 65.29 per cent in 2011, the last time the question appeared on the yearly census. The percentage of Calgarians employed has averaged 66.68 since 1996.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi noted he was surprised that employment rates "dipped only a little bit" since 2011. He noted despite the downturn Calgary is still creating jobs and remaining an "engine of job-creation."

"The difference between 2011 and 2015 is a difference of, if I'm eyeballing it, the difference of 75,000 jobs being created," said Nenshi. "That's one of the small bright spots as we're looking at the economic downturn here."

Trevor Tombe, assistant professor of economics at the University of Calgary, said Edmonton's employment numbers are rising as Calgary's fall.

"In last June, for example, employment there was about 25,000 people more than at the beginning of last year. Whereas in Calgary it was about 20,000 less; so there's a tale of two cities going on here."

He said part of the reason Calgary's jobs aren't on the rise is because of the corporate oil company losses the city has suffered. In Edmonton, jobs are more associated with operations and productions.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

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YWCA CALGARY

BY THE NUMBERS

1,235,171

2,040

The number of new residents for 2016 in Mahogany, Calgary's leading community in terms of growth. After that was Nolan Hill, with 2,033 additional residents.

The rental vacancy rate in 2016, up from 2.64% in 2015.

67.34%

4.3%

The percentage of Calgary drivers that make their way to work alone in 2016.

SOURCE: CALGARY CENSUS

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SAFETY

GRIZZLY ATTACK

Bear was protecting cubs, won't be tracked

A wildlife spokesman says a grizzly bear was trying to protect her cubs when she attacked two people at a campground in the backcountry northwest of Calgary.

A 25-year-old woman who was having a picnic with her boyfriend was charged and bitten on the arm by the mother grizzly on Tuesday.

Fish and wildlife spokesman Brendan Cox says the bear will not be tracked down and destroyed.

Coleman Blair, whose family owns the Trapper's Hill campground by the Ghost River, said he came upon the attack and was able to pry the bear's jaws open.

The woman was taken to hospital and was in stable condition.

Cox says a large part of the area will be closed to recreational

use until further notice.

"The sow was reacting naturally to protect her cubs," Cox said Wednesday. "The cubs stumbled upon the pair. It reacted to defend them, so the bears will be left alone and given the space they need to

move on on their own."

He said wildlife officers will

monitor the region.

"The area will be opened again when officers are confident that it's safe to do that," Cox said.

"After a situation like this, it's typical that (the bears) will leave the immediate area quickly, but it is best practice to close off a larger area to help prevent similar incidents like this. We really can't put a timeline on how long it's going to be closed right now."

Warning signs and tape will advise hikers of the closure, Cox said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

“

**The cubs
stumbled upon
the pair. It reacted
to defend them.**

Brendan Cox



A protest in April saw S.W. BRT opponents and supporters go head to head. HELEN PIKE/METRO

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City plots next steps on BRT plan

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Residents divided on southwest transit project



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

If you're having trouble keeping track of the southwest bus rapid transit debate, we don't blame you.

In a nutshell, council is looking at a number of administration's recommendations in terms of a new staging approach for the project. This could delay the project for two years while ATCO builds a gas line.

This after a number of concerns were raised, some highlighted by the grassroots group Ready To Engage, about the gas line construction and BRT construction not lining up and possibly becoming dangerous.

"The issue is the gas line, it makes absolute sense to postpone a portion of this until ATCO is done," said Coun. Shane Keating. "The last thing you would want to do is put in processes and make the road with all the changes and then in two years have ATCO come in and dig it up...let's delay it and then move on with a plan

south of the hospital."

Last week, the City of Calgary released a 92-page document detailing answers to 62 questions raised in an April meeting ahead of time to give those who planned on attending the meeting a chance to read it.

But the meeting didn't go down in these simple terms.

Over 60 speakers signed on to have their say on the SW BRT project on Tuesday, in a Transportation and Transit meeting that felt much more like a town hall — with Coun. Keating at the helm, continuously reminding the crowd about suppressing applause and heckling.

As some councillors repeated throughout the arduous process that this meeting was "to address the answers of the questions asked," speakers

repeated concerns from the past meeting.

For example, one speaker chose to use part of her five-minute presentation to play

“

**It makes absolute
sense to postpone
a portion of this.**

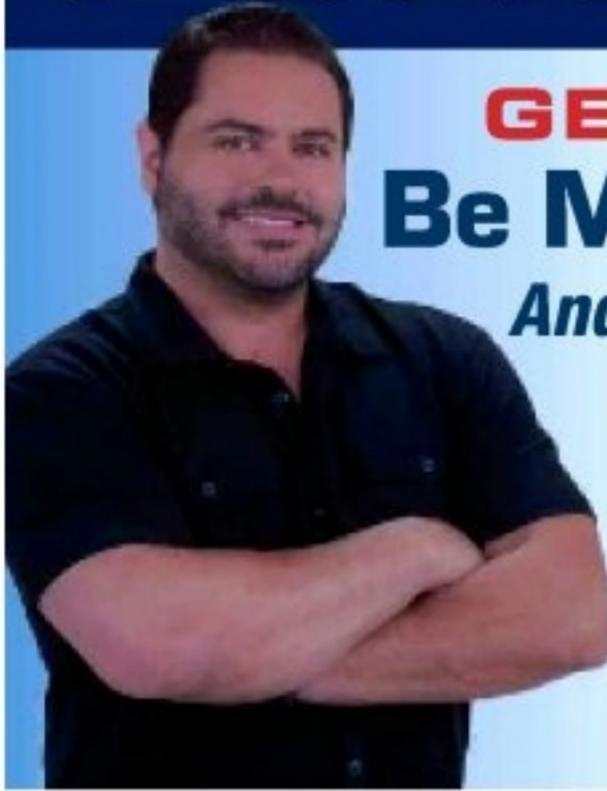
Coun. Shane Keating

Joni Mitchell's Big Yellow Taxi through a white iPhone ear bud that she'd held up to the microphone. She was asking council not to tear up green space they've already clarified will remain mostly intact.

Many speakers were of the opinion that the city should delay the project until the southwest ring road. Speakers also spoke about the cost of the project and fears of densification in their neighbourhoods.

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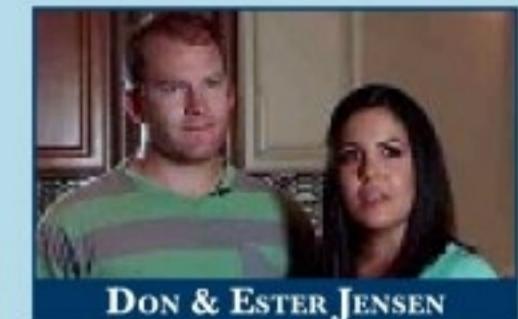
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Turf war disrupted: Police

ORGANIZED CRIME

Two face charges in two deaths seven months apart

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Calgary police say the city's drug turf war has been disrupted after four men were charged in connection with two murders and organized crime drug activity.

On Wednesday, police said the charges were a result of a joint investigation that initially stemmed from the shooting death of Jason Quinn Antonio in October 2014.

However, Insp. Don Coleman said police anticipate another drug syndicate will fill the turf that's been disrupted.

"Inevitably, somebody is going to step up to try and fill the gap," Coleman said. "We'll keep pressure on that and continue to combat the violence that's associated with drug activity and



Calgary Police Service Insp. Don Coleman says four people have been charged in connection with the city's drug turf war. METRO FILE

the drug activity itself."

Seven months after Antonio's death, in May 2015, police were called to an office building in the 10300 block of Bonaventure Drive SE after gunshots were reported. On scene they found

Taylor John Zanoni, 23, who was transported to hospital where he later died.

Coleman said police believe both murders were connected to people involved in organized crime drug activity.

He said the investigation, done jointly with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the Tri-Cities Task Force Group in Washington State, led to the July 15 arrests of individuals attempting to cross

the border with 14.2 kilograms of cocaine and 3.2 kilograms of methamphetamine.

As a result, four Calgary-area homes and one business were raided by police.

They include the 100 block of Nolan Lake View NW, 300 block of 3 Street SE, two residences in the 0-100 block of Gray Way in Bearspaw and one business in the 0-100 block of Westwinds Crescent.

Coleman said two officers who came into contact with an unknown substance have recovered after they required medical attention from EMS. The RCMP's Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement and Response Team was called in to assist with the search and decontamination.

Gursharanjit (Gary) Parmar, 32, of Calgary and Joshua Lloyd Okabe, 30, of Calgary both face two counts of first-degree murder in connection with the deaths of Zanoni and Antonio and both face drug-related charges.

Ricco King, 44, of Calgary and his father, William King, 71, both face drug-related charges. All four will appear in court July 22.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION Ward 11 race heats up

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The race for Ward 11 is really heating up with 14 months to go before the 2017 municipal election. Jeremy Farkas has already announced his intention to run, and incumbent Coun. Brian Pincott has his name on the registry.

Now the president of the Acadia Community Association, Keith Simmons, has said he'll be challenging in the ward as well.

Simmons has about a decade in serving on the community association. He said he got involved after having concerns about traffic in his neighbourhood.

Since then he has been an advocate for lower speed limits and pedestrian safety.

On the issue of the SW BRT, Simmons said he's not convinced the design is the best solution to transit issues in the area. He has a different vision for what might work.

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ROBERTSON COLLEGE

Pedestrian advocates set to unite

SAFETY

Vision Zero pushes for slower speeds

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Several independent pedes-

trian advocates are coming together in Calgary under the Vision Zero banner in hopes of influencing council policy on traffic safety.

Jodi Morel, founder of Slow Down YYC, said it made more sense to team up than to work independently under different banners.

"We came to realize we were all talking about the same thing. We were coming from

different directions, but we all have the same goal which is to improve safety and livability on our streets."

Morel said representatives from Bike Calgary, Walk Calgary, Safer Calgary, and Slow Down YYC will all be joining the board of a new group called Vision Zero YYC.

The Vision Zero movement began in Sweden and has since spread to cities across

the world. The idea is to build and engineer cities with the goal of having no pedestrian fatalities due to vehicles.

Morel said she's been in touch with Dr. Matts-Åke Belin, project leader for the Vision Zero Academy, about forming a local group here.

She said Belin's data shows the Vision Zero ideals make a difference.

"They've had a lowering of

fatalities — they've found that their measures are working."

Kimberly Nelson of Walk YYC said members have registered to form a society through the province, and are now just waiting on the paperwork.

The next step will be forming the board and deciding who will take on what roles there.

"Eventually we'd like to start pushing policy because what's happening now at city coun-

cil — that whole Step Forward exercise was just painful. It shouldn't have been that difficult to say quite assertively you want to aspire towards zero fatalities."

She said the Vision Zero philosophy is all encompassing when it comes to transportation, and it's been shown to work elsewhere. That is why they're keen to promote it in Calgary.



Alex Hadi, 15, walks in the Ekso Bionic Exoskeleton with the help of two physical therapists. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

HEALTH

Injured teen helps test exoskeletons

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

Everything changed for Alex Hadi on the evening of his 15th birthday.

While tobogganing with friends on Dec. 21, 2015, Hadi hit a patch of ice, causing his toboggan to spin out and sent him head-first into a light post.

"I remember going down the hill and then waking up at the bottom wondering what was happening," he said.

"(My friends) said 'Alex, are you going to get up? Do you want a second to breathe?' And I just said, 'I can't feel my legs.'"

The spine injury left him a T7 paraplegic, entirely paralysed below his chest. But, thanks to a new study and a wearable robotic device, Hadi was walking on Wednesday morning.

Hadi has joined researchers at Foothills Medical Centre for a study about the benefits of using an exoskeleton to rehabilitate patients with spinal cord injuries shortly after their injury.

While studies have been done before on the benefits of exoskeleton use in months and years after an injury, this study is the first to look at the early stages of recovery.

"We know people recover at the fastest rate after spinal cord injury in the first six months or so after the injury," said lead investigator, Dr. Chester Ho. "So we want to take advantage of this opportunity to provide the most intense rehab."

There are currently three patients involved in the study, but Ho hopes to enlist more in the next two years, along with more funding for the exoskeletons, which cost almost \$100,000 US each.

The Ekso Bionic Exoskeleton is a 50-pound metal frame that supports a patient's torso, core, legs and feet. It is remote-controlled by a therapist, but Ho said he hopes the activity will reduce the loss of muscle mass and bone density, as well as help with their mental health.

Hadi's mother, Stella Efthimiou, said she sees her son's psychological state improve tenfold whenever he's in the exoskeleton, adding that any opportunity she has to see her son stand up and move is "phenomenal."

"It's surreal, because this is our new reality," she said. "This is Alex to us now. But to see him stand up, I was like, 'wait a minute, that's Alex.' That moment when he stands up and you see his face light up — seeing that is worth a million bucks."

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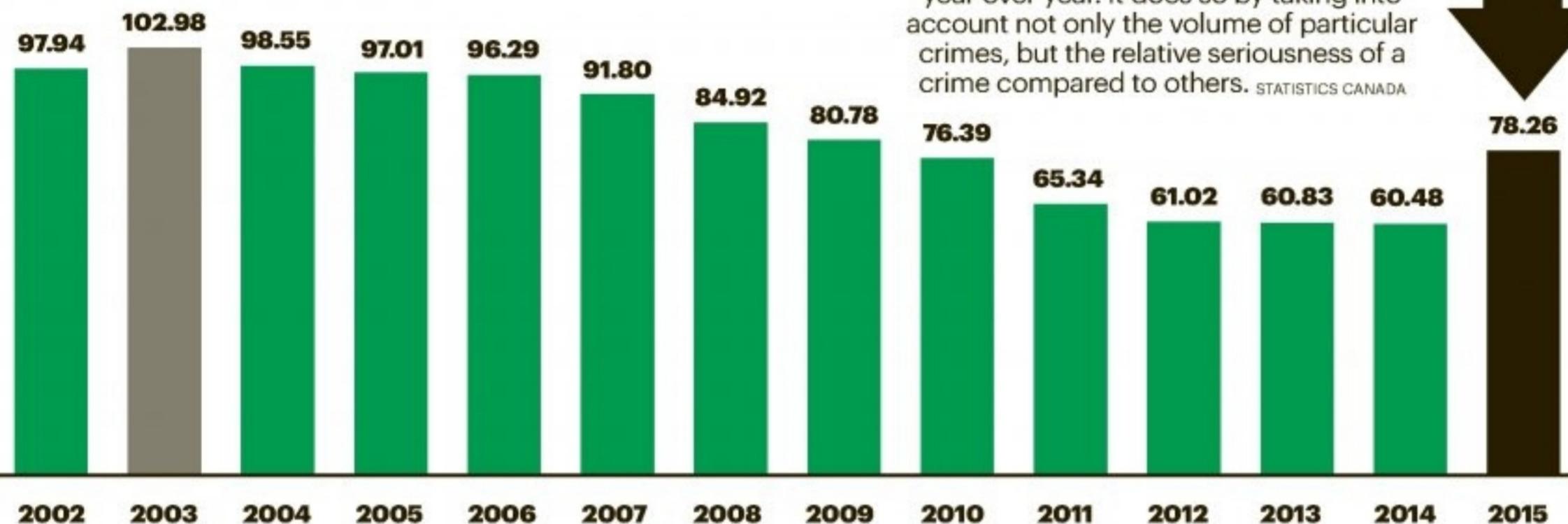
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Crime severity spikes 29% in city: Statistics Canada

Despite the dramatic increase in 2015, Calgary's crime severity index had been dropping for the most part over the past 14 years.



CRIME SEVERITY INDEX

The Crime Severity Index tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime year over year. It does so by taking into account not only the volume of particular crimes, but the relative seriousness of a crime compared to others.

STATISTICS CANADA

VIOLENT CRIME SEVERITY INDEX

(including uttering threats, criminal harassment and forcible confinement)

2000
88.61

2015
72.06

Per cent
change
over 2014:
+12.88%

NON-VIOLENT CRIME SEVERITY INDEX

(includes all non-violent Criminal Code violations including traffic, as well as drug violations and all Federal Statutes.)

2000
105.21

2015
80.36

Per cent
change
over 2014:
+36%

CITY COMPARISON

Edmonton Quebec City

↑
+16%

↓
-6%

REPORT

Downturn, drugs led to spike: Chief



Jeremy Simes

For Metro | Calgary

The spike in Calgary's crime severity index (CSI) can largely be linked to the increase in the city's drug activity and economic slump, according to Calgary police Chief Roger Chaffin, as fentanyl and other opioid use remains high across the province.

On Wednesday, Statistics Canada released a report that showed Calgary's CSI index jumped by 29 per cent, the largest increase in Canada's metropolitan areas. The CSI measures the volume and severity of police-reported crime.

According to Calgary police, there was a spike in methamphetamine, heroin and opiate drug seizures.

Chief Chaffin said the rise in crime isn't good news for Calgarians, adding the force has been focusing its efforts to handle such issues.

"Yes, you're always concerned with any rise in crime," he said. "It's got economic ties to it, but as a community we're working to find solutions."

Alberta as a whole saw an increase in its CSI by 18 per cent, according to Statistics Canada.

Across the province, the data reporting agency said the higher crime rates were a result of more incidents of breaking and entering, theft of \$5,000 or less and motor vehicle theft.

Chaffin said crimes, like car thefts, affect public confidence.

"These are the things that affect us everyday. It affects us, it affects our neighbours, it's the sort of things that deteriorate your confidence in community life," he said. "So as a service we've reorganized ourselves, we've put new strategies in focus to these crimes."

He said he believes the solutions are education and prevention.

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Folk Fest to the rescue

ARTS

Organizer says Calgary can come together with music

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Calgarians deserve a little bliss after enduring a tough year, according to Calgary Folk Music Festival executive director Debbi Salmonsen.

The Calgary Folk Fest kicks off Thursday in Prince's Island Park, with popular acts and local artists headlining the four-day event.

Salmonsen said this year's festival packs a new 50/50 raffle, a mobile library, a half-pipe for skaters, an expanded beer garden with a stage and, of course, great music.

"We have a really fantastic music lineup this year," she said. "Whether you like your old-time blues, hard-core honky-tonk music, traditional folk or everything in-between, we have that."



Calgary Folk Music Festival organizers, such as Naddine Madell-Morgan, were busy setting up on Wednesday to kick off the event for Thursday. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

The new additions, and the main stage itself, will be much needed given the province's lacklustre economy, hampering many who call Calgary home, Salmonsen added.

"Calgary and Alberta generally had a tough year," she said, "and I think this is an affordable way for people to come down, spend the day and feel part of their communities."

"In a time where people have had some hardship, music is really healing."

She said the economic slump hasn't impeded Folk Fest's ability to showcase musicians.

"The American dollar did affect us a bit, but we were able to book almost the same number of international artists," she said.

"We also have a lot of great

Canadian and Calgary artists. I think our artistic programmer has done a great job to bring a fantastic music lineup."

The weather is forecast to be bright and clear, a nice change from Stampede week's wet and grey conditions.

"We're happy about that because, in Calgary, always expect the unexpected."

Tickets are on sale and can

be purchased at calgaryfolkfest.com. The event runs from Thursday to Sunday.

Salmonsen's top picks

Ian Tyson and Corb Lund
Salmonsen says Tyson and Lund are the perfect pair to close an Alberta festival on Sunday at 1:55 p.m. on Stage 4. "To close an Alberta festival is to have homeboy-done-good Corb Lund closing out the festival," Salmonsen said. Both Tyson and Lund are considered country poets with easygoing tunes.

The Dudes

A Calgary classic, this local rock band has been around since the '90s, entertaining audiences wherever they go. They perform Thursday night at 9 p.m. on Stage 4 and are also involved in some workshops throughout the festival.

BRAIDS

Originally from Calgary, BRAIDS is an art rock band that recently won a Juno. The band's lyrics can be quite confrontational, though their sounds both delve into the acoustic and electronic realm. They close Stage 1 on Saturday at 8:55 p.m.

CANMORE Second bear attack

Southern Alberta saw its second bear attack in two days on Wednesday — this time in the Canmore Area.

Paramedics from Canmore were called to the Lowline Trail around 7:30 Wednesday evening.

There they found an injured female, believed to be in her 20s, suffering from a serious soft-tissue injury to her upper torso, resulting in internal injury.

The woman told EMS that she and her friend were biking in the area when they came across a bear, believed to be a brown bear. As they attempted to ride away, the bear struck the individual.

The second woman was able to use bear spray, which caused the bear to leave the area. The women rode their bikes for a distance where they were able to call for EMS. The injured female was subsequently transported to Canmore General Hospital. She was speaking with paramedics en route to hospital and was listed in stable, non-life threatening condition.

On Tuesday, a woman was bitten by a grizzly in the Waiparous area, near Cochrane. METRO

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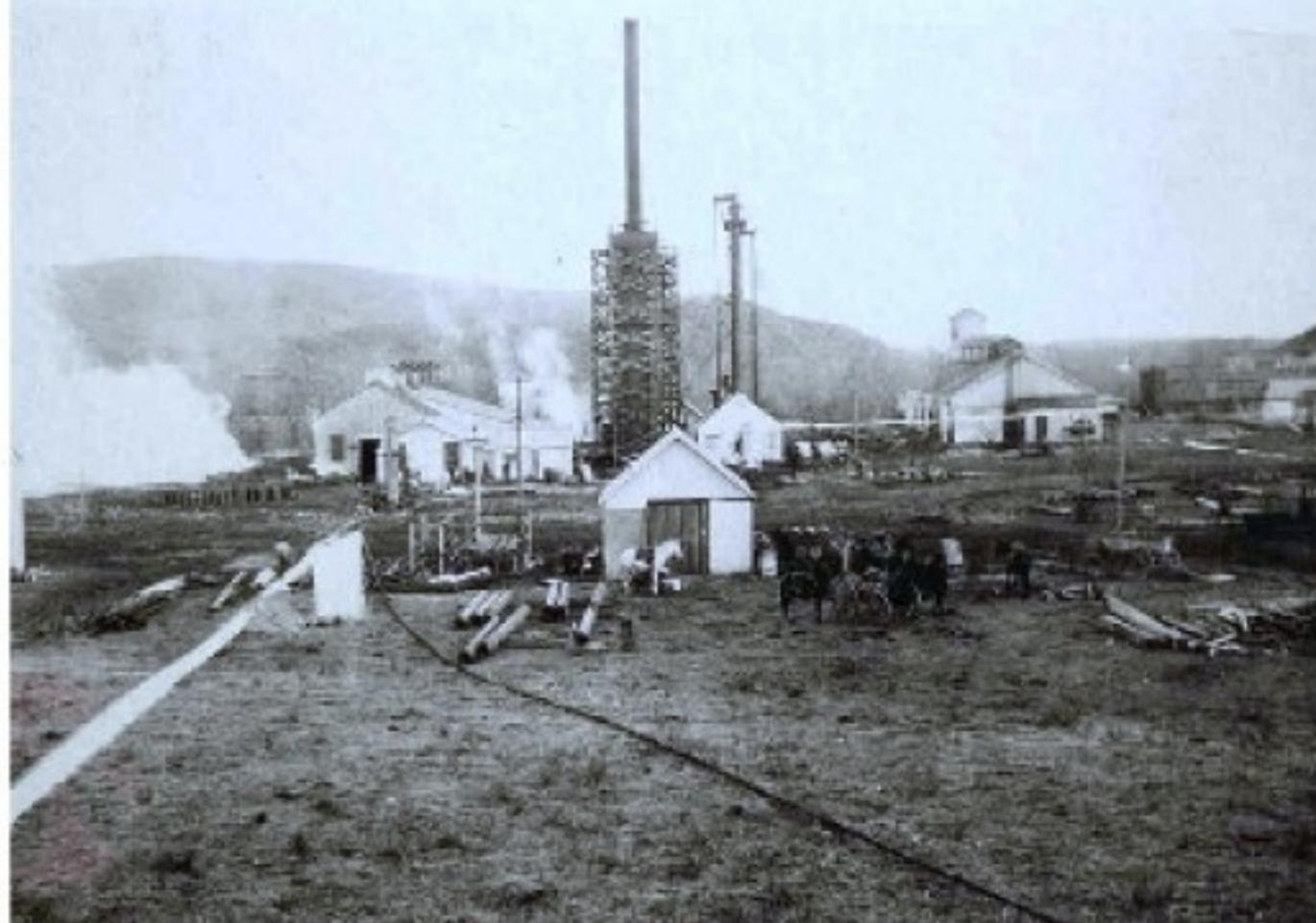
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ANIMAL WELFARE

Best for elephant to stay at Valley Zoo: Vet



**Ryan
Tumilty**
Metro | Edmonton

The British vet who examined Lucy the elephant stands by the Valley Zoo's decision to keep the animal there.

Dr. Jonathan Cracknell was brought in by Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums to examine Lucy, as part of an accreditation process that

allows the zoo to keep Lucy without other elephants — something that ordinarily is not allowed.

He said her solitary living environment is not ideal, but staff at the zoo do what they can to make sure she is happy.

"I am aware of other centres and other zoos and sanctuaries and I have never seen a level of care provided that is so intuitive," he said.

Cracknell examined Lucy's

problem teeth, which zoo staff believe is constricting Lucy's airway and concluded while a sanctuary with other elephants could be good for Lucy, she might not survive the trip.

"The benefits of that move and the welfare that could be created are probably not worth the risk," he said.

Cracknell's full report is available on the zoo's website.

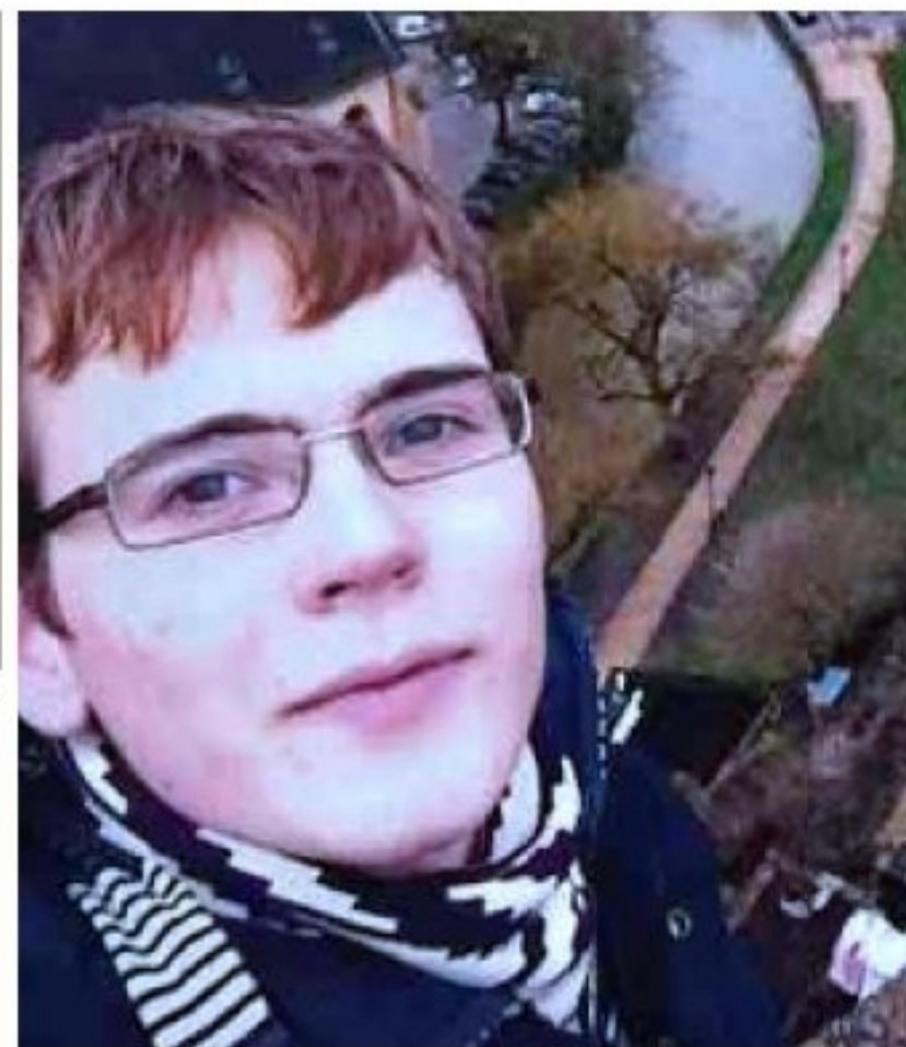
Rod Laidlaw, executive director of Zoo Check, which has

pushed for Lucy to be moved, said the report is not an end to their campaign.

"It's one vet's opinion and it's heavily qualified."

Zoo Check approached Cracknell last year to have him examine Lucy on their behalf.

Cracknell did recommend that Lucy have 24 hour camera surveillance in her enclosure to allow zoo staff to better monitor her behaviour.



Mykhaylo (Misha) Bazelevskyy embraced all aspects of life at the university. EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACADEMY/TWITTER

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'A leader and a friend'

TRAGEDY

MacEwan U student confirmed killed in Nice



**Alex
Boyd**
Metro | Edmonton

Flags at MacEwan University were at half staff Wednesday in remembrance of Mykhaylo Bazelevskyy, known as Misha.

"He had his feet in every single community that he could have, whether it was athletics, student clubs, volunteering or academic endeavours," said Danika McConnell, president of the student's association.

"It seemed like everyone knew his name and knew his face, he was a leader and a friend."

Bazelevskyy, 22, was out to watch the fireworks in Nice, France last Thursday when a man plowed a 19-tonne truck into the crowd gathered to celebrate Bastille Day.

Bazelevskyy was among the 84 killed.

The Ukrainian business student was studying in Edmonton, and was in Nice for a three-week program at the

European Innovation Academy, along with four other MacEwan students and a member of the faculty.

All others from the school in Nice are safe.

Although he went missing immediately, his death was confirmed late Tuesday by French authorities.

Bazelevskyy had embraced student life at MacEwan.

He worked as a resident adviser, ran for the cross-country team and served on student government.

McConnell first met him while covering his run for student council for The Griff, the student paper.

"He was a go-getter. He was an international student who really cared about the well-being of other students."

In a statement, MacEwan president David Atkinson said the school will continue to offer any assistance they can to Bazelevskyy's family.

Counselling services are available to faculty, staff and students.

"Few, if any of us, can comprehend the senselessness of what occurred in Nice," Atkinson said in the statement.

"There is no greater loss to a university than a student who has so much life and promise ahead of him."

He was a go-getter. He was an international student who really cared about the well-being of other students. Danika McConnell

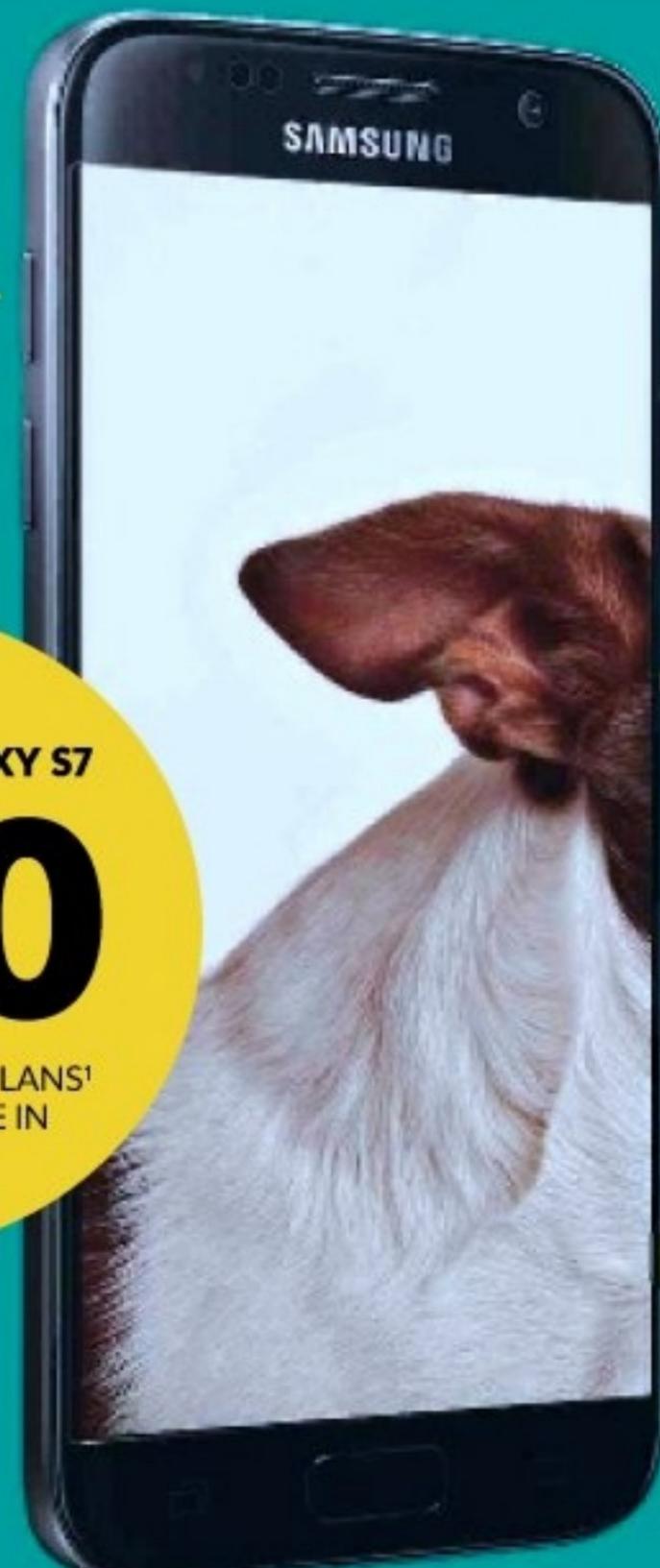
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Indigenous children are missing out on benefits

POVERTY

Thousands on reserves aren't eligible due to no taxes filed

The first monthly Canada child benefit cheques, worth up to \$533 per child, went out to more than 3 million homes Wednesday.

But because 18-year-old Chantal Perrault has never filed a tax return, her five-month-old baby Harlow is missing out.

"Wow, that is a lot of money. It would buy a lot of baby formula," she said in a phone interview from Red Gut First Nation reserve near Fort Frances, Ont., where she lives in band housing with Harlow's father, grandparents and two cousins.

Perrault is among thousands of indigenous parents on reserves who don't regularly file tax returns, and therefore aren't eligible to receive the income-based benefit aimed at lifting



Chantal Perrault and her five-month-old baby Harlow, from the Red Gut First Nation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

about 300,000 Canadian children out of poverty.

The benefit is expected to help about 8,000 indigenous children escape poverty. But 16,000 would be helped if all parents on reserve filed their taxes, The Canadian Press reported.

Indigenous children are twice as likely to live in poverty as non-aboriginal kids, according to a recent study by the Can-

adian Centre for Policy Alternatives, which found poverty rates among First Nations children living on reserves are about 60 per cent.

Canada Revenue Agency doesn't track the percentage of tax filers on reserve, but a small 2010 study put the number as high as 50 per cent.

Families with net annual incomes below \$30,000 receive the



Wow, that is a lot of money. It would buy a lot of baby formula.

Chantal Perrault

maximum \$6,400 a year for each child under age six and \$5,400 per child for those from age six through 17.

Numerous government departments are working together to create greater awareness of federal benefits and to help individuals file taxes, said a spokesman for Families, Children and Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos, who is in charge of the program.

"Minister Duclos has discussed this issue with indigenous leaders and has asked Service Canada to reach out to indigenous communities to support access to needed documents," Mathieu Filion added, referring to social insurance numbers and birth certificates. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Halifax city Coun. Gloria McCluskey is catching Pokémons and naming She's a Halifax councillor

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Long-time councillor and former Dartmouth mayor Gloria McCluskey is claiming a new title: "princess of Pokémons."

I met up with McCluskey in the backyard of her Victoria Road home on Wednesday afternoon to chat about her newfound love of the Pokémons Go app, which she has

yet to download but said she's been playing via her son's account.

"I know somebody who walked 5.5 (kilometres) the other day who never walks. It's great," McCluskey said, referring to how players of the game need to move around to catch Pokémons or hatch special eggs.

Although McCluskey said she's not sure what Pokémons she has previously caught, it "wasn't very big."

"Some of them are big and ugly. I'm going to name the councillors



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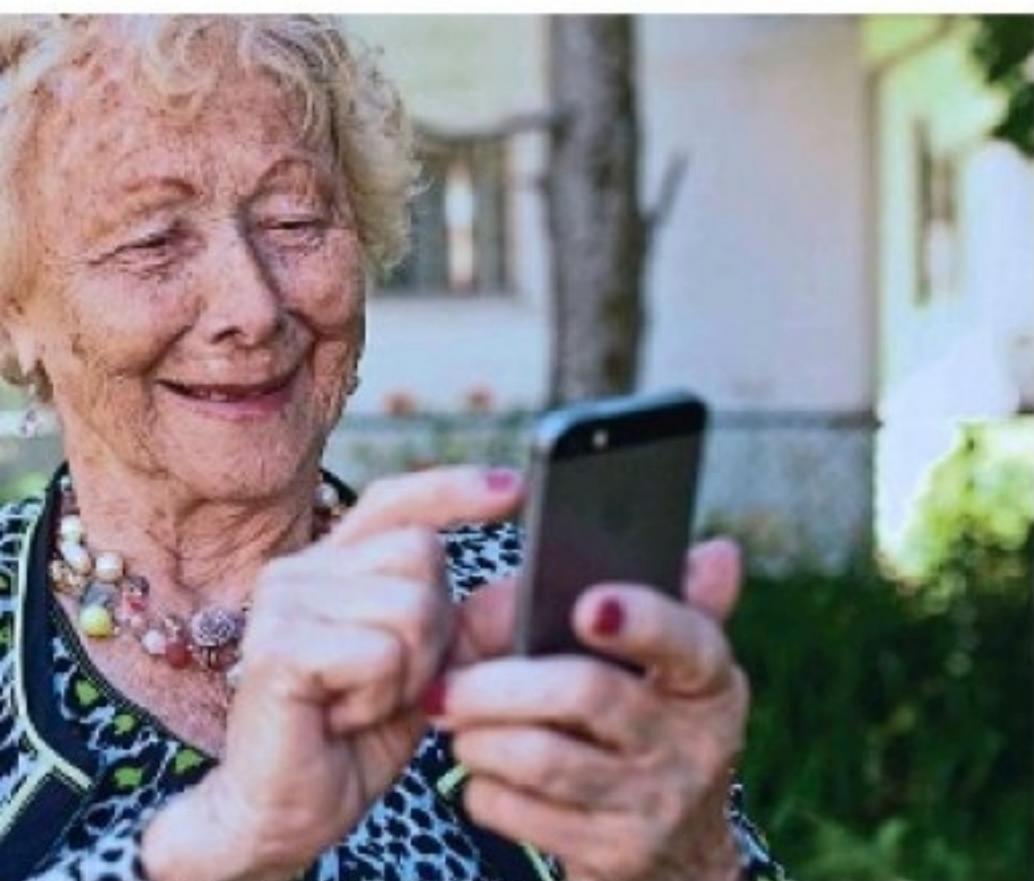
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her colleagues after them. JEFF HARPER/METRO

and 'princess of Pokémon'

after them," McCluskey said.

"I have one for Wayne (Mason), it's 'Ratta-something,'" she added with a laugh about the Halifax councillor, a frequent sparring partner across the council table.

She was recently asked if she was the only councillor using the game, at which she scoffed and answered, "I'm the princess of Pokémon."

"No one's on there. I know I'm the coolest one; the oldest but the coolest," McCluskey laughed.

Since no Pokémons were hanging in McCluskey's backyard, I walked down the sunny sidewalk with the councillor towards the closest Poké gym to see if we spotted any along the way.

McCluskey waved to a woman who pulled up in a car as we passed a stop sign, and yelled out that she was playing Pokémon Go. The woman laughed and said, "We are too right now!" as a kid in the passenger seat held up their phone.

WINNIPEG

No idea Giesbrecht pregnant: Husband

The husband of a Winnipeg woman accused of hiding the remains of six infants said Wednesday he had no idea she was pregnant all six times, and was also unaware she had rented a storage locker where the remains were found.

"You have no idea why you would not know your wife was pregnant on those occasions?" asked Crown attorney Debbie Buors.

"No," Jeremy Giesbrecht replied in one of several one-word responses on the issue. He rarely looked at Buors and

sat sideways in the witness box.

Andrea Giesbrecht was arrested in October 2014 after the remains were found in plastic containers in a U-Haul storage locker she had rented. Medical experts have testified the infants were at or near full term, were likely born alive and some were very decomposed when discovered.

The Crown has yet to suggest a motive for the alleged crime.

The judge hearing the case has also heard that Giesbrecht, 42, had several legal abortions since 1994 — her husband testi-

fied Wednesday he knew of those — and a miscarriage. The couple have two children together.

DNA evidence at the trial has linked the infants' remains to Jeremy Giesbrecht and a soiled sanitary napkin found in the Giesbrecht home, although the defence has raised questions about whether the napkin might have been used by a female other than Andrea Giesbrecht.

The Crown tried to close the door on the DNA issue Wednesday by asking Jeremy

Giesbrecht whether he has had sex with anyone other than his wife since their marriage in 1999.

He said no.

Defence lawyer Greg Brodsky has raised the idea that Giesbrecht may have had a medical issue that prevented her from carrying a baby to term in the years since her last child, now a teenager, was born. Brodsky pointed to medical records Wednesday that said Giesbrecht suffered a recurring menstrual disorder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Post-Daesh challenges come into focus

With a military victory over Daesh in sight, Canada and its allies are focusing on what comes next — keeping Iraq together and stopping the spread of terror. Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan were in Washington, where they heard that the fight against Daesh was going better than expected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

QUEBEC

Group to begin testing Zika vaccine

A Quebec City-based research team has received the green light to begin testing a Zika vaccine on humans in collaboration with U.S.-based partners.

The researchers based at Université Laval are the first in Canada to be authorized by Health Canada and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to conduct clinical tests.

The university is one of three sites that hope to begin testing a vaccine for the mosquito-borne virus in the next few days.



and compare those to immune responses we have documented in animals that were protected from the infection."

The team is looking to recruit between 10 and 15 healthy volunteers for the Canadian portion of the study.

Kobinger said the DNA-based vaccine has already been tested "extensively" on cells and animals such as mice, guinea pigs and primates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Syrian children play inside a tent at Ritsona refugee camp north of Athens, which hosts more than 600 refugees and migrants. Over 57,000 migrants and refugees remain stranded in Greece following European border closures. PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stop jailing migrant kids, rights group tells Greece

REFUGEE CRISIS

Children as young as 14 found locked in police cells

Rights group Human Rights Watch is calling on Greece to immediately end the holding of unaccompanied migrant children in police station cells, saying the country must find space for them in facilities where they can receive adequate care.

HRW in an announcement said a shortage of places in shelters had led to "arbitrary prolonged detention in places unfit for children."

The group said that according to Greece's state-run National Center for Social Solidarity, about 18 children were awaiting transfer at police stations, and hundreds were in overcrowded detention camps.

Children as young as 14 were found in police cells according to HRW's Eva Cosse.

"It's a gross indictment of the government's failure to



It's a gross indictment of the government's failure to care for these children. Eva Cosse

care for these children ... They shouldn't spend even one more day in these awful cells," she said Wednesday.

Greece has been the main entry point for hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants heading to Europe.

Under a March agreement between the European Union and Turkey, migrants arriv-

ing on Greek islands from the nearby Turkish coast are detained and face being deported to Turkey.

More than 8,000 migrants and refugees have been placed under restriction on the islands and listed for potential deportation, while nearly 50,000 others are on the Greek mainland at government-run camps await-

ing to be formally granted residence rights in Greece or to be relocated to other EU countries.

Thirty-one per cent of the million migrants and refugees who arrived in the EU last year were children, while minors currently make up a quarter of daily asylum applications, according to data gathered by the European Commission.

In the announcement published Tuesday, HRW said it had interviewed 11 children who had been detained for as long as two months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOTING

Texas is told to fix ID law

Texas' strict voter ID law discriminates against minorities and the poor and must be weakened before the November elections, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday, following claims that at least a half-million registered voters could have struggled to cast a ballot.

The ruling was a striking election-year victory for President Barack Obama's administration. U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said the ruling affirmed that the 2011 law — which Texas enforced in three elections — abridged the right to vote based on race or colour.

Republicans were dealt a second blow in as many days to a new breed of strict voter ID measures that limits the kind of photo identifications that are valid. On Tuesday, a federal judge in Wisconsin ruled that residents without a photo ID in that state will still be allowed to vote in November.

Elections experts widely agree that the Texas law, which accepted concealed handgun licences but not college IDs, was the toughest in the nation.

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+ VOTER ID

More than 30 states require some form of voter identification. But only nine states, including Texas and Wisconsin, were considered to have especially restrictive laws.

More than 600,000 Texas voters — or 4.5 per cent of all registered voters in the state — lacked a suitable ID under the law, a lower court found in 2014.

UNITED STATES

Wildfires destroy mobile homes, block route to Yellowstone



A wildfire burns in the Hollywood hills on Tuesday in Los Angeles, Calif. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Blazes in the U.S. West have blocked a major route to Yellowstone National Park during tourist season and tore through a mobile home park in Utah, leaving residences destroyed and people displaced.

Here's a look at some of the fires:

UTAH

High winds pushed a northern Utah brush fire out of a field and into a neighbourhood, destroying at least 10 homes in trailer park. Authorities were investigating Wednesday whether the 30-acre

fire in the city of Tooele was intentionally set because they said it appeared suspicious.

The fire that ignited Tuesday has been contained but has displaced several dozen people. Eight other homes and a handful of cars were damaged.

WYOMING

Crews are battling a blaze blocking a route to Yellowstone National Park and the region of Jackson Hole as summer visitors flock to the popular northwest Wyoming areas.

The wildfire has burned about 12 square miles in the

Bridger-Teton National Forest and closed U.S. 191/189, a highway heavily used by travellers heading across Interstate 80 to the park and Jackson Hole.

IDAHO

Authorities are taking aim at a fast-moving wildfire in southwest Idaho, calling in retardant bombers and additional firefighters to try to strengthen containment lines around the blaze burning in grass and sagebrush 15 miles east of Boise.

The human-caused fire that started Tuesday quickly ballooned to 5 square miles, de-

stroying a barn and two smaller structures, but no homes are threatened, fire spokesman Brandon Hampton said.

ALASKA

A wildfire threatening homes just south of Alaska's largest city was likely caused by people, fire officials said Wednesday. The fire had come within a mile of two separate Anchorage subdivisions.

About 150 firefighters are battling the blaze, and five hotshot crews will arrive later Thursday from the Lower 48.

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YESTERDAY'S GATEWAY TO TOMORROW'S DESTINATION

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Many victims in Nice foreigners, Muslims

Now that the last bodies from the Bastille Day attack have been identified by authorities, it is clear that although the carnage happened on French soil, it disproportionately affected tourists and Muslims.

Among the 84 dead, 38 were from 19 different countries, announced the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were from as close as Italy and Algeria and as far away as Madagascar and Brazil, and included Ukrainian citizen Mykhaylo Bazelevskyy, who had permanent resident status in Canada as a student. If the 200 wounded are included, the number of countries rises to 29, said a ministry spokesman, Romain Nadal.

No official count of Muslim victims exists, but Samy Boubakri, an imam at the Bon Voyage Mosque in Nice, says there were at least 25 Muslims from the local community among the victims. That number rises to 35 if foreign Muslims are included, he said.

"Muslims make up only 7 per cent of the population of France, but at least 30 per cent of the victims of the attack," he said.

Ever since the morning after the attacks, senior members of the Islamic community have been present at the hospitals to

console victims' families, lead prayers and offer counselling. Boubakri put his cellphone number on Facebook and promised to answer 24 hours a day.

Beyond spiritual support, the imams have had to step into an unexpected role: defending Islam from angry members of the public who accuse it of being the cause of terrorism.

"It hurts me when people tell me to go back to where I came from. I was born in France, grew up in France. I was educated in France. What do we have to do to finally be accepted as French?" asked Boubakri, who is also a member of the regional Union of Independent Islamic Institutions.

As 42,000 people gathered on the Promenade des Anglais on Monday for a moment of silence, tensions continued to flare. Several acrimonious exchanges between Muslims and non-Muslims were caught on video and posted to Twitter, going viral in minutes.

A small group of people booted Prime Minister Manuel Valls, calling him an "assassin" for failing to assure adequate security for the Bastille Day celebrations.

The state of emergency, which has been in force since the Paris attacks, was scheduled to be lifted next week, but it was extended six months. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



A law-enforcement officer tries to extinguish a burning American flag on Wednesday in Cleveland, during the third day of the Republican convention. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convention sees most turbulent day of protest

U.S. ELECTION

17 arrested as officers face assaults: Police

Police arrested 17 people Wednesday after a melee broke out during a flag-burning in the streets outside the Republican National Convention.

It was the most turbulent protest since the four-day convention began on Monday. The chaos briefly prevented delegates and members of the media from getting into the Quicken Loans Arena for the proceedings.

Among those arrested was Gregory "Joey" Johnson, whose torching of the flag at a GOP convention three decades ago led to the landmark Supreme

Court decision that said flag-burning is speech protected by the First Amendment.

Two officers were assaulted and suffered minor injuries, police said. Two of those arrested were charged with felonious assault on a police officer, the rest with failure to disperse.

Police Chief Calvin Williams said a protester whose pants caught fire got defensive when a police officer tried to put out the blaze. The man assaulted the officer, and "things escalated from there," Williams said.

The melee brought to 22 the number of people arrested during the convention, far fewer than some had feared.

"Right now, I think so far, so good," Williams said.

Carl Dix of the Revolutionary Communist Party said the

group organized the burning of the American flag as a "political statement about the crimes of the American empire. There's nothing great about America."

Moments after the flag was set on fire, officers charged in to put it out with an extinguishing spray that some in the crowd thought was pepper spray because of eye irritation caused by the fire-suppression substance.

"You're on fire! You're on fire, stupid!" a Cleveland officer shouted at a protester while firing the extinguishing spray.

"Burn that rag! Burn that rag!" supporters of the group yelled.

Pushing and shoving broke out, and police quickly had several group members on the ground in handcuffs. Some in the crowd jeered the officers, yelling, "Blue lives murder!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PLAGIARISM ALLEGATIONS

Speechwriter admits error

A speechwriter for Donald Trump's company said Wednesday she made a mistake in using passages from a 2008 Michelle Obama speech in the Republican Party convention speech delivered by Melania Trump.

In a statement issued by the campaign, Meredith McIver took the blame but made it clear that Mrs. Trump knew the passages were from the first lady's speech.

Questions about plagiarism hung over the opening days of the convention. The statement came after the campaign spent two days insisting that it wasn't plagiarism and calling criticism absurd. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A memorial along the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, southern France on Wednesday. CLAUDE PARIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATTEMPTED COUP

Turkey declares a state of emergency

Turkey's president on Wednesday declared a three-month state of emergency following a botched coup attempt, declaring he would rid the military of the "virus" of subversion and giving the government sweeping powers to expand a crackdown that has already included mass arrests and the closure of hundreds of schools.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was accused of autocratic conduct before the insurrection, said the measure would counter threats to Turkish democracy. Possibly anticipating investor jitters, Erdogan criticized Standard & Poor's for downgrading its credit rating for Turkey deeper into "junk" status and said the

WIKILEAKS

Access to the WikiLeaks website in Turkey has been blocked after the group announced, following a failed coup by the military, that it would release documents on the country's power structure.

country would remain financially disciplined.

The president did not announce details, but the security measure could facilitate longer detentions for many of the nearly 10,000 people who have been rounded up.

DAY 3

This guy wants to be vice-president of U.S.



Michael D. Landingham
STEVEN GOETZ/FOR METRO



STEVEN
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REPORTERIN
CLEVELAND

Michael D. Landingham says Donald Trump could still unite the country if he swapped his running mate Mike Pence for ... Michael D. Landingham.

The Cleveland native was in the streets Tuesday talking to anyone who would listen. "A young black man like my-

self there would bring people together," Landingham said. "Someone who knows about the struggles between police and African Americans."

Landingham said the gulf between law enforcement and the black community was "a big misunderstanding on both parts because of the fear-mongering media."

He said he wasn't sure what Trump actually stood for beyond building a wall with Mexico and opening a new investigation into 9/11.

"I want to say right off the bat, we would have to discuss some things, probably over dinner and a glass of wine so he could see inside my head, I could see inside his head," Landingham said.

Who would pick up the bill?

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Business metro NEWS

DISCOUNT TRAVEL

NewLeaf airline allows bids on unsold seats

Canada's newest discount airline says it will let travellers bid on unsold seats. NewLeaf says the idea is part of a partnership with Calgary-based company Jump On Flyaways.

Roger Jewitt, CEO of Jump On, says there are a lot of airline seats that fly empty every year because airlines use complicated revenue management techniques to maximize their seat revenue. He says Jump On's business model is to col-

lect bids on the potentially unsold seats, and let the airlines consider the best bid.

He says it is conceivable a person could be the only bidder on a particular seat and get the flight for \$1, though the company's website notes air travel partners will consider "reasonable" bids and can decline them. Jump On opened its online portal for NewLeaf's 11 routes on July 19.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOOD

Listeria fear prompts hot dog, corn dog recall

More than 372,000 pounds of hot dogs and corn dogs made between July 10 and 13 are being recalled over concerns of listeria contamination.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says Bar-S Foods is recalling five chicken and pork products, including bun-length and classic franks made with chicken and pork, classic corn dogs and Signature Pick 5 corn dogs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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**FRANCE CONTROVERSIAL
LABOUR BILL FORCED
THROUGH PARLIAMENT**

Protesters hold placards reading "Everybody hates the labour law" in Paris earlier this month. France adopted a deeply divisive labour bill Wednesday after the government used a special measure to force it through Parliament without a vote, ending months of often violent protests and damaging political division. Prime Minister Manuel Valls argued in Parliament that the bill — which weakens union powers, makes layoffs easier and extends the work week — is necessary to create jobs and make the economy more competitive. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Freer trade top topic at premiers meeting

WHITEHORSE, YUKON

Interprovincial deal close, says B.C. Premier Christy Clark

Provincial and territorial premiers say there's a high degree of support for an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

The premiers are in Whitehorse for their annual summer meeting. They were talking with aboriginal leaders on Wednesday before two days of discussions about other issues which are

expected to include freer trade across jurisdictional boundaries.

Host premier Darrell Pasloski said Tuesday the leaders are focused on an agreement that would allow provinces and territories to do business with each other in the same way Canada trades with other countries with which it has free-trade deals.

"It's ridiculous you can't buy B.C. wine in Ontario when you can buy it almost anywhere else around the world," said British Columbia Premier Christy Clark.

Clark said the interprovincial deal is close, but only after intense negotiations.

"President (Barack) Obama says democracy means com-



B.C. Premier Christy Clark at the meeting of premiers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

been convinced they're 100 per cent right, but nonetheless has found a way to compromise."

B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan signed their own free-trade alliance, the New West Partnership, in April 2010 to improve labour mobility and cut bureaucracy. It was fully implemented in 2013.

The premiers are also expected to discuss health care, climate change and pension reform.

Political scientist Hamish Telford said the meetings allow the premiers to map strategy and co-ordinate their approaches to the federal government on often-complicated and costly issues.

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metrO VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Thursday, July 21, 2016

GILBERT NGABO ON CANADA'S GOOD EXAMPLE



The immigration tradition we've built in this country is special and has made us a model for the world, but it could fall apart if we don't work to maintain it.

There's a primary school in western Berlin where certain students are obliged to come in later and leave earlier than other students.

That group is composed of children of recent immigrants, mainly refugees from Syria, Eritrea, Iraq and Afghanistan. They're members of what's known in German education circles as "welcome classes."

When I and 17 other international journalists visited the school late last month — part of a conference on an invitation from the German Federal Foreign Office to learn about the country's immigration and integration policies — a welcome-class teacher explained the bizarre scheduling: others at the school "are afraid" of the unknown. Because the new kids are immigrants and don't speak German yet, they're completely separated from other students at school, to avoid any potential conflicts.

To me, that stood in contrast to what integration efforts look like in Canada. In Toronto, I've met with and reported on Syrian refugees, and I've seen how kids thrive studying and socializing with other children. The welcome-classes suggested to me that the immigration tradition we've built in Canada, which is special and has made us a model for the rest of the world, could fall apart if we don't work to maintain it. If separating schoolchildren could become necessary in Germany — a prosperous liberal democracy whose popu-

lation is 20 per cent recent immigrants, a country that has opened its doors to about a million Syrian refugees — it could happen here.

Having lived in Toronto for the past six years, I'm used to seeing a true picture of multiculturalism. Stand at any corner of the downtown street, and you're likely to see Asian, black, Indian, Caucasian or Arab people. That isn't a common sight on a Berlin street. Every time I took a stroll around, it was easy to feel like a stranger, except

attracted hundreds of thousands of active followers on its social media. Every Monday morning, no less than 2,000 people storm the city's streets, spreading xenophobic and Islamophobic messages: "Stop Islamization of Europe." "Rape culture is being imported." "Stop the invasion." "Refugees, go home."

If you want to dismiss them as just a bunch of rogue members of the society, think again. Political science professor Werner Patzelt of Dresden Technical University, who

refugees, the policy was met internally with more public applause than criticism. And it's also true that my fellow delegates at the week-long conference in Germany marvelled when I told them of the many local community initiatives working to make refugees feel welcome and fully integrated in Canada. But what I didn't mention there were the occasional racist incidents: a hijab-wearing woman being assaulted, a mosque being torched, people being told to "go back" wherever they came from.

By and large, we do a great and enviable job of making immigrants feel welcome, but we don't always do a great job of admitting, either to ourselves or to the rest of the world, the ways in which we fall short. We may not have politicians openly calling for the building of an actual border wall or the deportation of Muslims. We may not have schools openly cordonning off refugee students from other kids. We may not have large public assemblies against immigration. But there are dangerous sentiments in this country, just as there are anywhere else, and we do ourselves no favours by ignoring them.

There's no reason why what is now a small, hateful minority could not, under certain circumstances, or given a certain chain of events, gain wider influence. Terrorist attacks on our own soil, an uptick in homegrown radicalization, a Trump presidency south of the border — any or all of these could have negative impacts on Canada's overall attitude towards immigration.

It's up to every one of us to continue maintaining a uniquely Canadian system that is the envy of the world.

recently published a book about the movement, believes Pegida has grown as a result of the country's failure to secure social coherence on immigration and integration matters. He says Pegida has derived even more legitimacy, in the eyes of ordinary citizens, from the growing number of terrorist attacks, especially when someone of an immigrant background is involved. The fear produced by the attacks is powerful.

And the fear lives here, too. Yes, it's true that when Canada recently worked around the clock to bring in 25,000 Syrian

There are dangerous sentiments in this country, and we do ourselves no favours by ignoring them.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD



For indigenous women, the pain of daily life can't be conveyed in statistics

Last month, on June 8, a new and much-lauded survey charted what one indigenous activist called "a growing awareness" among Canadians of indigenous issues.

"Sympathy for aborigines rising: survey" read The Globe and Mail's headline, adding that three quarters of Canadians want to "see social and economic disparities addressed."

That same day, news broke in Calgary of body parts found in a park. They would turn out to be part of the remains of Joey English, a 25-year-old indigenous woman.

Police have not ruled her death a homicide. Instead, a man, Joshua Jordan Weise, stands accused of offering an indignity to human remains. It's alleged English died in his home and he dismembered her body and sought to hide it. Police have not yet said how she died.

Stephanie, English's mother, says she feels betrayed by the justice system. She criticized the prosecutor for allowing Weise out on bail and she's launched a "Justice for Joey English" group.

"There is no compassion to how it's being done," she told me. "I honestly believe if we were white, our case would have been dealt with and we would have closure."

She still has not received her daughter's remains, in order to bury them.

And while she has praise for Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Stephanie says she

was "brushed away" by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau when she tried to tell him about her daughter's case at an event in Calgary over the weekend.

"I don't need his apologies. He can give those to my mother and the ones who went to residential school. What he can do is really look at my granddaughter, and ask if this is going to happen to my granddaughter when she grows up."

The loss in the English family has been great. Joey's sister died of what police deemed suicide. Two other family members were murdered, and two more died from suicide, according to Joey's cousin, Brailon English. Stephanie told me she believes her daughter would still be alive if she'd received more help to treat an addiction.

"Now I sit in that category where my girls are statistics," she says. "That is so heartbreaking."

Statistics — of violence, incarceration, education, health and poverty of Canada's Indigenous — are often what we see. Individual stories don't often break out into the national consciousness. Joey English has not been a national news story. But she and her family are part of the actual lives and pain that we choose to talk about in numbers, a tactic that defangs, sanitizes, and silences their stories.

Their stories are one to listen to, carefully. They tell not just of suffering but of well-earned distrust.

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LGBTQ fiction with a twist

LITERATURE

Canadian fan authors find mainstream success at last

Genna Buck
Metro Canada



For years, Michelle Osgood spent her weekends and evenings writing online stories based on the MTV series *Teen Wolf*, dreaming of getting published one day.

Then the 27-year-old full-time secretary visited a friend's cute apartment. She started thinking about the kind of character who would live there — and her first original work of fiction was born.

The resulting novel, *The Better to Kiss You With*, came out in April. It shares elements with her fanfiction: It's a Vancouver-set paranormal lesbian romance, with plenty of werewolves.

"I probably would not have even tried a mainstream publisher," Osgood said.

She turned to Interlude Press, which was founded specifically to help writers like her, with a following online, to cross over to the broader world of books.

Veteran ghostwriter and editor Annie Harper started Interlude in 2014 with two fellow superfans she met on Tumblr, reading and writing fanfiction based on the TV show *Glee*.

READ IT

Interlude books available from Canadian authors

The Better to Kiss You With by Michelle Osgood, \$19.50

Deanna Scott is geek girl. She has a job moderating a mobile role-playing game about werewolves and a crush on her beautiful, butch upstairs neighbour Jamie. Then one of the game's players starts bombarding her with increasingly threatening messages: "I'm a real werewolf and your game is offensive." Deanna thinks he's just some sad guy with an internet connection. But Jamie knows something she doesn't.

Lodestones by Naomi MacKenzie \$20.95

Summer Love (short story collection) by various authors including Winnipegger H.J. Coulter, \$20.95



Interlude Press, which has its roots in fanfiction but has grown into a bricks-and-mortar publisher, prints positive LGBTQ stories by authors from around the world, including Canadians Naomi MacKenzie and Michelle Osgood. CONTRIBUTED

She got the idea at a conference after an executive from Simon & Schuster said fanfiction was telling publishers what people want to read, but aren't getting — that it's a harbinger of literary trends to come.

Interlude doesn't print fanfiction scrubbed of references to source material, à la *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Its stories draw from

the traditions of fanfiction: LGBTQ romance, references to geek culture and, in the works for adults, a fair amount of explicit sex.

"Fanfiction authors tend to take greater risks. They have so much freedom," Harper said. "A lot of authors with deals are frequently told to diminish or downplay LGBTQ characters."

All Interlude books have LGBTQ themes of some sort, and though the stories contain their fair share of angst, the publisher has a happy-endings-only policy.

The company's young-adult imprint, Duet, recently partnered up with the suicide-prevention charity The Trevor Project on an initiative to get 1,000 copies of *The Rules of Ever After*, one of its most acclaimed titles, into libraries around the U.S.

Positive LGBTQ stories that don't dwell on sexuality are incredibly important to young queer people, but libraries often don't stock them because they seem to rarely get checked out, Harper explained. Librarians tell her that's not the case: Because of stigma, people read the books

There are so many great fanfiction authors out there who have trouble getting recognition from publishing houses.

Michelle Osgood, novelist

in the library, or sneak them out without stopping at the desk.

"Coming-out stories are great, but every story shouldn't have to be a coming-out story," says Interlude author Naomi MacKenzie, 38, a former photographer who lives with her two teenage sons in Mississauga, Ont.

MacKenzie's young adult novel *Lodestones*, inspired by her childhood in rural New Brunswick, is a comedy with a huge cast of diverse characters and a romance between two men.

She has written fanfiction for more than a decade, mostly in the worlds of *Glee* and *Harry Potter*, but this was her first experience of a rigorous, and she says somewhat tedious, editing process that made her book better.

Osgood, on the other hand, studied English in university and said she "doesn't mind red pen" all over her work.

She's already at work on a sequel. All she'll say about it now is, "It involves a character who shows up at the end."

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Compelling but tough to read

Plutona
BY: Jeff Lemire, Emi Lenox and Jordie Bellaire
PUBLISHER: Image Comics, 154 pages, \$16.99

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

Sometimes a book is hard to read, but compelling at the same time. That's the feeling with *Plutona*, the tough-yet-tremendous new collection from Image.

It's based on a weird idea. Five kids from the suburbs find the body of Plutona, their city's greatest superhero, lying in the woods.

Unsurprisingly, they don't know what to do. But the events that follow are include several surprises, some of them pretty dark.

The story switches between superheroic hyperbole, for flashback scenes of *Plutona*, and affecting, ordinary exchanges between the kids as they try to cope with the grim event.

It's all good, but the parts with the children are superb.

As with books like *Essex County* and *Sweet Tooth*, Canadian writer Jeff Lemire gives us a story that's full of emotion but doesn't feel in any way overwhelming.

He's a master at this, and the beautiful work of the art team makes this trade paperback, which collects the five-part mini-series for the first time, a special package.



BOOK BRIEF

Gay Ecuadorian author overcomes barriers and publishes novel

As a deaf and gay student in Ecuador, Cesar Baquerizo was bullied and a victim of societal prejudice.

Now, after five years of writing, Pen Name Publishing has released his first novel in English, *A Safe Place With You*.

The book talks about homosexuality in Ecuador in the '80s, when it was illegal.

"I want to move readers through my words, so they can put themselves in LGBT

people's shoes and feel like they are there, in the novel, with my characters," Baquerizo, 30, told the AP in a recent interview.

The book follows a young man named Tomas Diaz and his newly found friends at a conversion therapy clinic in Ecuador, where their families have sent them to "treat" their homosexuality. There, patients are given pills and suffer psychological abuse.

A Safe Place With You was inspired by true events though it is not a memoir.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What to do when you move to Washington?

INTERVIEW

Writer Jennifer Close pulls from own life in new novel

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

As the Republican Convention in Cleveland dominates headlines and late-night talk-show chatter, for many Washington, D.C., politicos currently working for President Obama, the event marks another kind of personal milestone.

Regardless of who is elected the next American president in October, many staffers will be leaving their jobs, or the city, or politics altogether. Washington author Jennifer Close compares the feeling in the Capitol right now to senior year in college.

"There's a lot of nostalgia already happening, and so many goodbye parties," says Close. "It's the feeling of 'this is the end,' and a whole new group of people will come



Jennifer Close, who lives in Washington D.C., took from her own experience moving from NYC to the U.S. capital for *The Hopefuls*. CONTRIBUTED

It's the feeling of 'this is the end,' and a whole new group of people will come in, which is so weird about the city.

Jennifer Close on the pre-election feeling in the U.S. capital

in, which is so weird about the city."

Close's observations of living in Washington, D.C., are at the centre of her entertaining new novel, *The Hopefuls*.

After the release of her debut novel, *Girls in White Dresses*, about a tight-knit trio of women in search of happily ever after, Close had a hard time convincing people that the book wasn't a thinly veiled personal story. With *The Hopefuls*, she is open about her inspirations: the city and people of Washington.

After Close, a former Condé Nast editor, left New York for D.C. to support her husband as he worked on Barack Obama's first presidential campaign, she found the transition to the new city difficult.

But while she initially disliked her new home and its dominating political culture, she also found it fascinating. And so she began writing a story about a group of characters living in the world's most powerful city, which would eventually become *The Hopefuls*.

"The first thing I wrote for the book is a rant about how

much the character hates D.C.," Close says.

"I think that was really therapeutic for me."

The book's protagonist, Beth, is also a journalist who follows her politically ambitious husband, Matt, to the Capitol. Beth has a long checklist of things she hates about the city: the relentlessly humid weather, the uniform Ann Taylor dresses, the driving culture and the

lack of decent bodegas.

Most of all, she is both bored and frustrated with the fact that it's impossible to have a social conversation that doesn't involve politics or BlackBerries.

Beth is inches away from a full-on meltdown when they meet charismatic White House staffer Jimmy, and his wife Ashleigh. The two couples immediately bond, but when Matt becomes

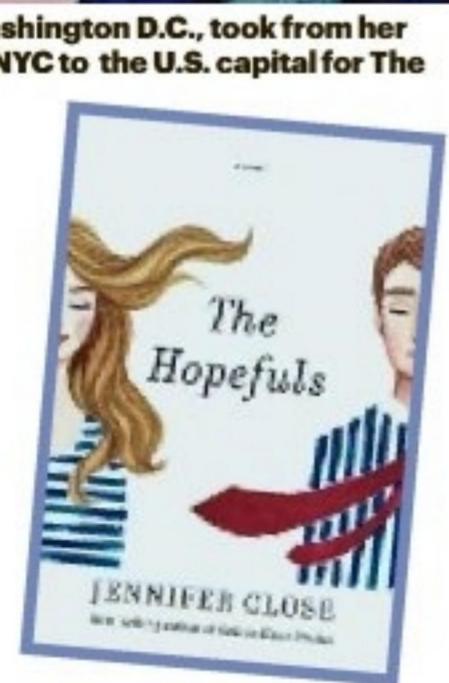
Jimmy's campaign manager, ego and ambition creeps into the friendship.

Close's own transition was not as painful as Beth's, in part because she began teaching creative writing at George Washington University (Beth ends up working for a Gawker-style online gossip magazine). She also met a group of women from outside the political circle, and found support in fellow non-polit-

ical spouses. Even though six years later, she now thinks of Washington as home, she knew her book needed to capture her original outsider's perspective.

"I was really interested in this world," Close says. "A lot of people will never get to see it."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



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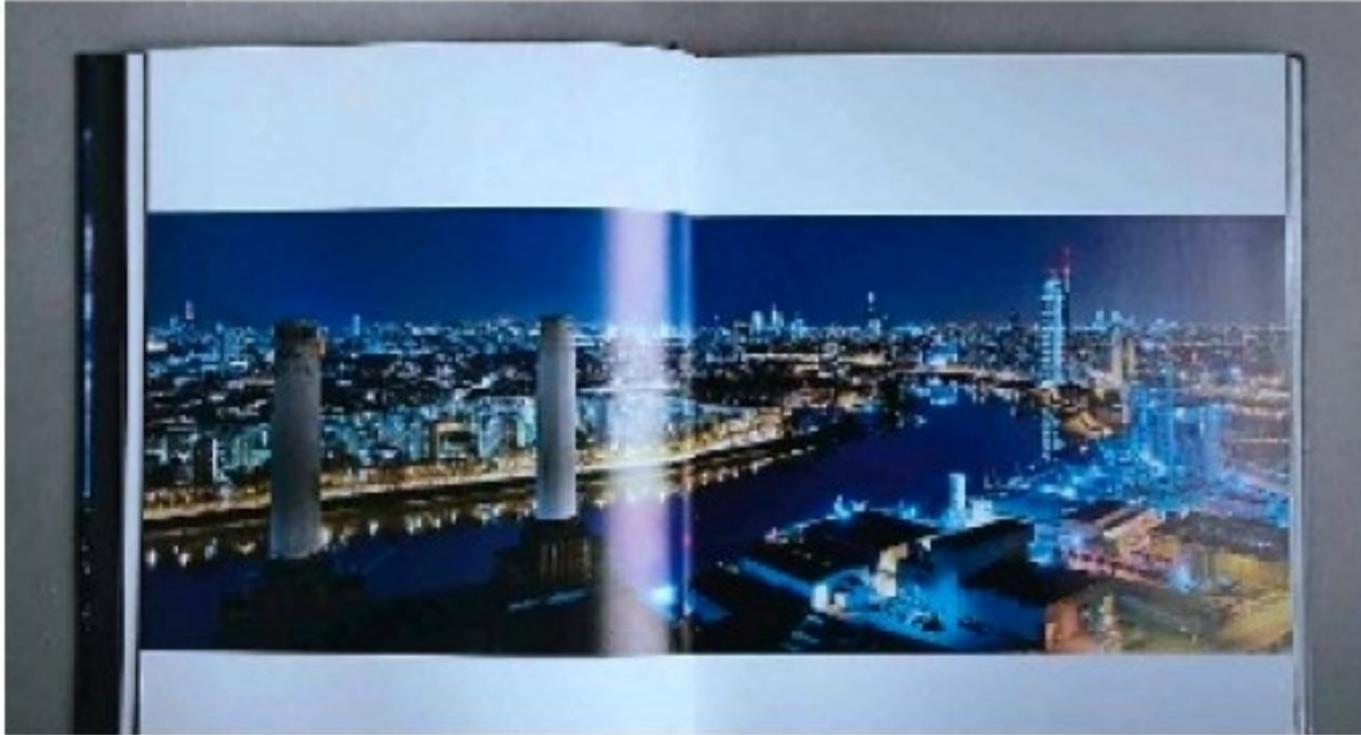
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A bird's eye view of London

There are shy and law-abiding tourists and there are scofflaw adventurers. The defiant latter include the authors of *London Rising: Illicit Photos From the City's Heights*, which chronicles a determined quest to see the sights normally viewed only by birds, construction workers and aircraft pilots.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Battersea Power Station and London panorama

The Battersea Power Station has immortal status in rock history as the inspiration for Pink Floyd's *Animals* album cover, showing a giant pig soaring through distinctive chimneys. Closed in 1983, the station is being turned into luxury condos and an entertainment complex.



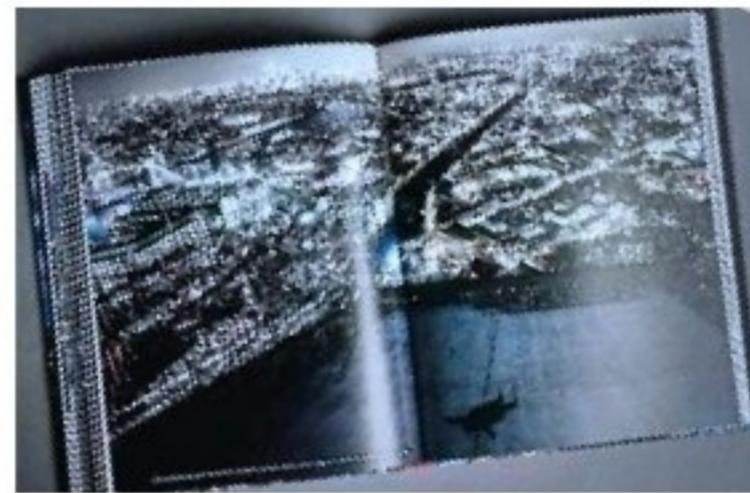
Rooftop birthday party, looking towards The Gherkin

Another birthday party, this time a BBQ, looking out over a cityscape that includes The Gherkin, an office building so nicknamed because of distinctive shape. The Gherkin is for wealthy business people, not open to the general public — except for these guys, who don't ask permission.



View from a crane over Jack the Ripper's playground

An unlocked crane in a mothballed construction site in Aldgate East affords a 21st century view of the Whitechapel district where Charles Dickens situated the Bull Inn of *Pickwick Papers*, and where Jack the Ripper plied his murderous trade in the late 1880s.



The Shard also rises

Definitely not your average view of The Shard, the 95-storey skyscraper in the London Bridge area of Southwark that opened four years ago this month. It's not only the tallest building in the United Kingdom, it's also the tallest building in the European Union — until "Brexit" happens, of course.



The Cheesegrater

The two-year-old skyscraper at 122 Leadenhall Street is known as The Cheesegrater for its resemblance to a certain parmesan-shredding kitchen tool. It also seems to fray the nerves of these aerial adventurers, who call it one of the most difficult buildings to access in London — but oh, that view!

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**ROBERTSON
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Women's fiction is still fighting for equality

GENDER ISSUES

Serious works still sometimes struggle for true acclaim

Fifty years ago, when Jacqueline Susann's *Valley of the Dolls* was published, it forced people to open their eyes to the fact that women could be just as imperfect—and debauched—as men. Male authors had written about drugs—think William S. Burroughs in *Junkie*—but weren't met with such zealous contempt. (Critic John Simon called *Dolls* "a piece of trash," among other things.) Nor did they achieve such wild, and instant, commercial success.

Perhaps that was where it started. Male authors got the critical acclaim—but the books by women, about women, made the big money. Somehow, this was taken to mean they were less serious.

There was a recent fracas in the publishing world over the covers of Elena Ferrante's very popular Neapolitan novels—about how they look like typical

romances even though the contents of the novel are well-written and meaningful. The conclusion was that it was ironic. Sandra Ozzola, Ferrante's publisher and co-art director, told *Slate*: "Many people didn't understand the game we're playing . . . of . . . dressing an extremely refined story with a touch of vulgarity."

The point being: if men or women want to read this very literary work, they're going to have to suffer through holding a book that looks like a drugstore romance. Or they're going to be excluded from reading it.

Where does this leave women who genuinely like the kind of fiction considered so lowbrow that higher literary minds are using it to make a point? And why, in a world where we don't suffer gender biases gladly are women being handed books with covers that are the equivalent of a Disney princess dress on Christmas morning? What a book such as *Valley of the Dolls* might have proven, long ago, was what women really want is a slingshot.

And why can't we at least attempt to make it OK for men to read books by women, about women?



Valley of the Dolls is considered a pioneering novel about the female experience. CONTRIBUTED

WORKS OF WOMEN'S FICTION

These are classic stories about women, told by women, each in their own way.

The Awakening, Kate Chopin

Originally called *A Solitary Soul*, this book was first published in 1899. Sadly for Chopin, the subject matter—a woman who abandons her husband and children in the midst of a search for herself—was so off-putting that, although it wasn't banned, the content was censored and reviewers were vitriolic.



First published in 1956, *Peyton Place* was bought by millions of Americans, but many of them put paper over the cover because it was seen to be so inflammatory. About the secrets contained in a small New Hampshire town, the novel was disdained by critiques in a myriad of ways.

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

Howard Moss of the *New Yorker* called Plath's writing "girlish" and "amateur" but the staying power of this disturbing 1963 novel, written about a descent into madness by a woman experiencing it herself, has easily transcended such flippant interpretations. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Peyton Place by Grace Metalious

"We are limited by our own sexism, a sexism that keeps men from reading stories about women and recognizing them as important, and keeps women from recognizing our own stories as important and valuable," says New York Times bestselling author Eleanor Brown, who wrote *The Weird Sisters* and, recently, *The Light of Paris*.

Authors such as Jacqueline Susann were pioneers in telling the truth about the female ex-

perience in the world. In showing a dark side, they helped bring us equality.

"Women's work has traditionally been seen as less-than, as craft as opposed to art, and women's fiction, in particular, has been defined as both small and personal," says internationally bestselling author Jennifer Weiner, who has long been an advocate

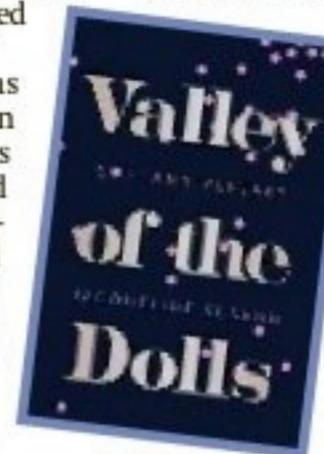
of gender equality in literature.

The authors who wrote the books that first alerted the world to the influence female readers could have need to continue to have a voice. Sylvia Plath in *The Bell Jar* wrote the

searing truth about a mental illness she eventually succumbed to, and was dismissed as "girlish."

"If you are a literary female writer who's tempted to separate herself from the pink-cover pack by saying, 'Oh, I don't read those books' or 'my work isn't like their work' take a giant step back and consider the history," says Weiner.

"You don't look any taller if you've got your foot on someone else's neck." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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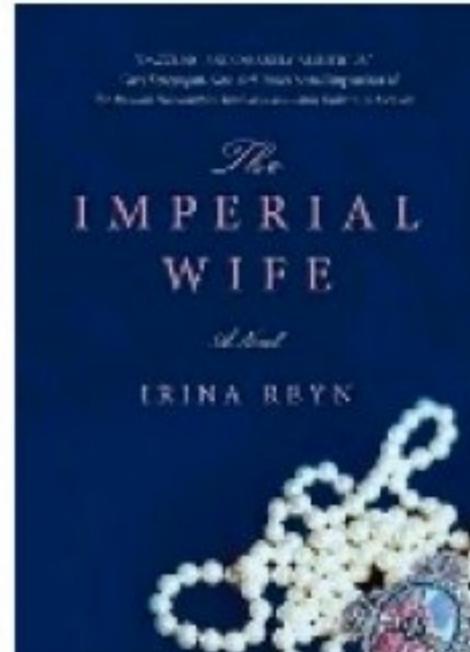
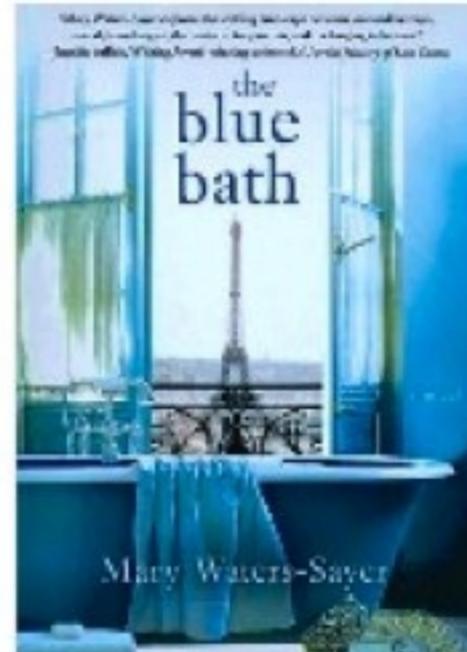
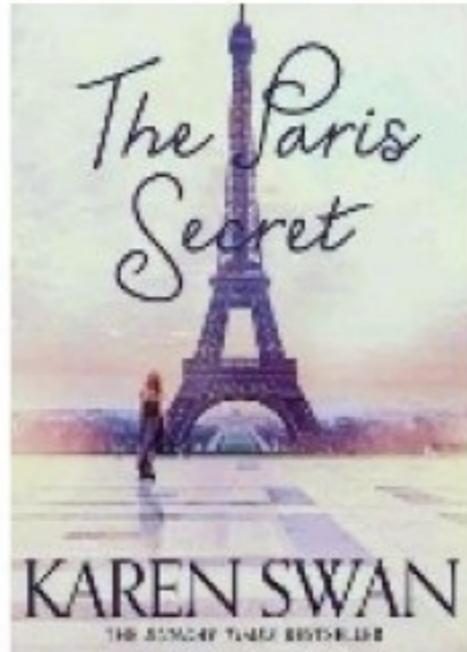
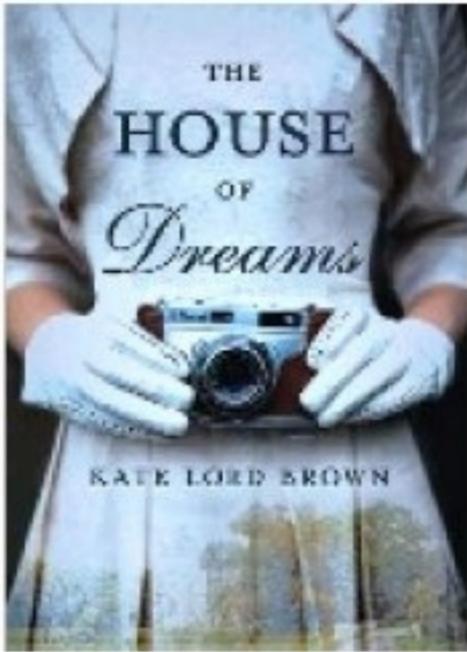
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5

NOVELS FOR ART LOVERS TO ESCAPE IN

Art provides the perfect background for fictional narrative — a literal canvas that sparks the imagination and provides a setting and background. Call this fan fiction for the art brigade. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**2 The House of Dreams**

Kate Lord Brown uses real-life American journalist Varian Fry, who helped anti-Nazi and Jewish intellectuals and artists escape from France during the Second World War as the inspiration for an intriguing story to bridge past (1940) and near present (2000) in this novel.

3 The Paris Secret

Fine-art agent Flora Sykes discovers masterpieces in a Paris apartment locked since 1943. The discovery leads her to Vienna and back in time to the dark years of the war. This is the Karen Swan's 10th novel: a winning blend of romance and mystery, with a few hairpin turns.

4 The Blue Bath

Protagonist Kat Lind has a love affair with a struggling young British artist named Daniel Blake in Paris. Now, 20 years later, she is married, and learns Daniel has a one-man show. She attends to learn every painting features her as his muse. This is Mary Waters-Sayer's first novel.

5 The Imperial Wife

Irina Reyn's book unfolds in alternating chapters, one narrated by Tanya Kagan, a Russian-art expert; the other, beginning in 1744, narrated by "Sophie Fredericka Augusta," who became Catherine the Great. A cunning tale of ambition and art.

1 The Last Painting of Sara de Vos

Dominic Smith's novel fuses three stories spanning 400 years, all connected to a 1636 painting by Sara de Vos. In 1957, the painting is stolen and replaced with a fake by Ellie Shipley, a young art historian. Flash forward to 2000: Ellie is curating an exhibit when she learns to her horror that both the original and forgery are on their way.

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Baby drama afoot in Real Housewives

SCANDAL

Bellamar claims C-section schedule conflict led to canning

Shinan Govani
Torstar News Service

"I'm nine months pregnant, and I'm going to be picketing in my Louboutin heels," Ariane Bellamar tells me. "I will not be bullied."

Hell hath no fury like a Housewife scorned, and this one is livid. Dismissed from her post on Toronto's most anticipated reality series *The Real Housewives of Toronto* — by lawyers via email near the tick of midnight on Friday — the actress-model, 38, is also shining light on a show whose details have been kept secret until now. The reason for Bellamar's termination from the 2017 Canadian spin-off of a franchise with monster-tentpoles in New York, Atlanta and Orange County, Calif.?

It is, she says, because the date of her scheduled delivery by Cesarean section changed. Originally placed in the Google Calendar for August 9 — which the producers knew when she was hired this spring — doctors moved the surgery to August 1, telling her the baby had dropped into position and it would be too dangerous to wait.

What that meant, she says, is that the birth of her child with Texas businessman husband Tanner Slaught would conflict with a ladies trip to Muskoka that the show's production team was preparing to shoot. Bellamar immediately informed producers about the change. The following night, she was axed.

"Is this a joke?" she asked Grant Fraggalosch, the executive producer of the Lark Productions-made show, in an email. Her pleas were forwarded to lawyers.

Lark Productions has not responded to queries from the Star.

"I'm supposed to be decorating my nursery right now," Bellamar says. In front of cameras! Instead, she's making calls to her own lawyers and considering a lawsuit. (Worth nothing: firing or demoting a woman because she is pregnant is contrary to the Ontario Human Rights Code.)

Bellamar was raised in Hamilton, and has a daughter, Emma.

She has reality TV experience (she starred on the reality series, *Beverly Hills Nannies*), a knack for drama (a quarrel with her millionaire CEO ex-boyfriend Patrick Henry landed her in tabloid of *The Daily Mail* in 2014)



Ariane Bellamar claims she was dismissed from *Real Housewives of Toronto* because her scheduled Cesarean section conflicted with filming of a ladies trip to Muskoka. CONTRIBUTED



I'm going to be picketing in my Louboutin heels.

Ariane Bellamar

and was born to screech "I'm done!", like every Real Housewife in every city does at some point. (Bellamar's resume also includes porn — movies like *The Curse of Medusa*.)

"I was supposed to be the fire-starter on the show," she says. "I'm very candid." Most importantly (and the reason, I think, so many bona fide socialites in Toronto turned down offers to do the show), "I'm willing to say things because I don't have the connections here," Bellamar says.

"My whole arc" — no surprise that reality shows have "arcs"! — involved "coming back home" and attending the premiere of the movie *Suicide Squad*, starring Jared Leto. Bellamar has a small part in the film, which was shot in Toronto.

On the show, her entree into the city's society sphere was to be facilitated by her cosmetic surgeon, the celebrated Dr. Stephen Mulholland, whose wife, Ann Kaplan Mulholland, is a part of the cast, too.

Bellamar says producers were so keen on her pregnancy, they'd already had conversations about her post-baby plot-lines. "They're talking about filming me getting wasted...for the first time after the baby. I told them, 'I'm going to be breast-feeding!'"

Asked if there might be a reason for her termination, other than her delivery date, and Bellamar shrugs. "I don't know. Maybe it's one of the other Housewives. Maybe they're jealous."

(For this line alone, I feel

like Bellamar should be immediately re-hired.)

Bellamar says she gave up multiple TV projects to secure this role, and now feels stuck in Canada. "I moved a pretty house. I bought a Maserati. I adjusted my whole life..."

She continues. "To make matters worse, my husband is in the process of moving his businesses to Toronto but can't legally do so until his visa clears...I lost my income, my husband cannot work in Canada yet, and we cannot change this situation until the baby is able to travel..."

"When I was with RHOT we had hospital and grand visiting experiences planned, but like the show, those are also gone."

The icing on the cake, she says, is that producers wanted to document her family's move to Toronto, "which included painting, moving boxes, moving in furniture...completing my nursery because the storyline wanted my husband's character to be developed into the 'stay at home dad' whom (sic) was going to decorate, furnish, and prepare the nursery. It is disheartening to walk around my incomplete house, which is still in the condition that Lark wanted it to be for filming."

Even more galling to her is the timing of the dismissal. "I was," she wrote in a letter to the producers' lawyers, "admitted into the hospital due to a dangerous spike in my blood-pressure, which of course, can lead to preeclampsia, endangering my unborn daughter's life. This has all been well-documented by the specialist professionals who attended the situation."

Fortunately, all is well now, she says. And, she's focused on another mission. "I want my job back," she reiterates. "Let's take the tweets to the streets."



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Hamilton highlights momzilla culture

THE SHOW: *Odd Mom Out*, Season 2, Episode 3 (Shomi)

THE MOMENT: The Hamilton cameos



Jill Kargman is Jill in *Odd Mom Out*. In Season 2, Episode 3, she bemoans her lack of Hamilton tickets. CONTRIBUTED

Upper-east-side — but still hip and fun — mom Jill (series creator Jill Kargman) and her best friend, single doctor Vanessa (K.K. Glick), sit in a diner bemoaning that they are the only New Yorkers who haven't seen the Broadway sensation *Hamilton*.

"Are you talking about *Hamilton*?" their waiter asks. "Isn't it life-changing?"

"We haven't seen it," Jill and Vanessa chorus, shame-facedly. Even their waiter is cooler than they are. "How did you get tickets?" Jill asks.

"I'm friends with one of the actors," he answers. "Javier Munoz?"

They shake their heads. "Well, he gets tickets to every show," the waiter continues. "I can see if he still has them for tonight."

"You are Zeus from on high!" Jill exclaims.

At the end of this episode,

scrawls on the screen reveal that the actor playing the waiter is Javier Munoz (he recently took over *Hamilton*'s title role), and furthermore, most of the bit parts — a ticket seller, a dad in the park, a couple on a bench, a theatre usher — are played by members of *Hamilton*'s cast.

Usually, making a specific cultural reference is a risky move in a sitcom; it will date your show, make it sound creaky. But Kargman's glee is so bountiful, it works.

More importantly, *Odd Mom Out* sends up rich, snotty mom-zillas who love nothing more than making their cohort feel inadequate.

Culture-shaming is a big way they do it. So the concept will stay current, no matter what novel/play/artist the glitterati move onto next.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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MEET THE CONDO

Beautiful area close to inner city



CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

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Housing amenities

This project features multi-use shared spaces that encourage a sense of community including rooftop patios, a courtyard and a fitness centre, which also encourages healthy living. The landscaped courtyard brings nature to the space while a beautiful glass walkway connects the two buildings.

Location and transit

Conveniently located within walking distance of Calgary's inner city, this condo project features mature trees that separate the community from the bustle of downtown. For commuters, the C-Train can be easily accessed via the Bridgeland Station and there are plenty of walking and biking paths in the community that connect along the river.

In the neighbourhood

Bridgeland is a great inner-city community that is located close to downtown with quaint neighbourhood shops and restaurants within walking distance with friendly neighbourhood eclectic vibes — all found within a beautiful neighbourhood with ample greenspace.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: Victory and Venture in Bridgeland

Builder: The Providence Group

Architect: Casola Koppe

Interior: Evolique Design

Location: Bridgeland, at Edmonton Trail and 4 Ave N.E.

Building: V&V features two four-storey wood buildings

Sizes: Between 470 and 1010

square feet

Pricing: Starting at \$244,000

Suites: One bed with one bath, two bed with one bath, two bed with 2.5 bath

Status: Summer 2016

Email: info@victoryandventure.com

Phone: 587-433-4416

Website: victoryandventure.com

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

1 SALES CENTRE NOW OPEN

Vogue by La Caille: Nestled in West Village, location is key as this project is just one block from the 8th Street LRT station and within easy walking distance of access to Calgary's Plus-15 walkway system. Visit the Sales Centre located at 912 5th Avenue S.W.

2 STILL SELLING

LiFTT: LiFTT is a 39-unit new condo development by Vericon Real Estate Ventures currently under construction in the inner city community of Renfrew. The development is scheduled for completion in 2016. For more information please visit the Sales Centre at 701 7th Ave N.E.

3 PRE-SELLING

The XII by XII GP Inc: The XII has 14 stories with floor to ceiling windows, a high-speed elevator with smart individual control, a state-of-the-art automated parking system with minimum two stalls per unit, a full-time concierge, and is located in the heart of Mission. Visit thexii.ca for more information.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO





METRO SPACES

Property insurance claims estimates: How are they different from conventional estimates?

With the recent hail storms and major flooding in Calgary, Airdrie and surrounding areas, Albertans are no strangers to property insurance claims.

Yet many people may not fully understand them, which means they may not get the quality of home repairs they deserve, according to David Bellingham, general manager of Bigtop Roofing and Exteriors.

If you've experienced damage to your home and you need to have it repaired by insurance, make sure you understand how the insurance process works, according to Bellingham.

If your home is damaged by hail, for example, it's normal to expect compensation for the cost of each of those components that were already part of your home. Insurance companies use computer software to estimate this cost, says Bellingham.

"Most people aren't aware of their rights, roles and responsibilities when it comes to the insurance claims process," says Bellingham. "In an environment where your home has been damaged by wind, hail, water or fire, you have the right to be compensated for your loss according to fair market value. This value is determined largely by a software program called Xactimate, which provides a cost for repairs for all building elements on your home."

This means the cost to repair your home for each building component by unit is static and won't be affected no matter how many different estimates you get from contractors.

"You should be aware that every component of your home has a value that your insurance company will compensate you for, which is again based on Xactimate pricing," says Bellingham.



CONTRIBUTED

Get the damage covered

Many people think that when their homes are damaged by hail or other acts of nature, they need to get several estimates on the repairs. However, your efforts are actually best focused on finding the most qualified contractor, according to David Bellingham.

"In most cases when people are getting several quotes, they are wasting their time," he says. "Instead, focus on finding a company that has the right credentials to inspect and repair the property and make sure they are able to use Xactimate."

After an incident, hire a certified contractor who can tell you how many square feet of siding or other material are damaged. For property damage restoration, your contractor should

have Haag or IICRC Certification.

"If your contractor doesn't have certifications, your insurer will be sceptical of the company findings and valuations," Bellingham explains.

Also ensure your contractor has the right credentials to do the work.

"If your home has siding, roofing and window damage, would you want a company that is specialized in roofing only complete work they are unfamiliar with? That would be like getting your physical therapist to do your dental work," says Bellingham.

Membership in one or more Alberta construction associations is a great starting point. "Make sure the firm you deal with has the knowledge and proven ability to expedite the work related to any repairs," says Bellingham.

Choose contractor with caution

When you're getting your home repaired after damage that is covered by insurance, it's always better to spend the time to find the right contractor with the right credentials.

"Be diligent about vetting of any contractor, whether they work for your insurance company or not," says David Bellingham. "Some insurers are more focused on dealing with a contractor that will offer lower pricing versus high quality service. From what I have seen in the past 10 years, some preferred vendors are often not credentialed to do the repairs they have been asked to do by insurers. This may mean they are not doing the work according to Alberta Building Code."

Instead, look for the right contractor through construction associations like the Alberta Allied Roofing Association or the Siding Contractors Association of Alberta.

"Don't be fooled by ads on Google or Home Stars," says Bellingham. "Make sure you get the contractor with the best credentials for the job. Take an hour online to do your research and remember to look at the source of that information."

For more information about insurance claims and hail damage, visit gothail.ca.



CONTRIBUTED



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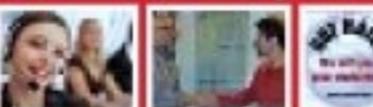
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Step #2
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Step #4
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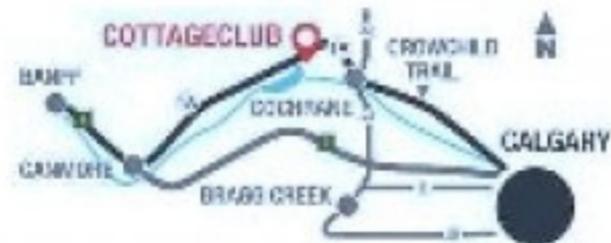
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Local vacations gaining popularity among Calgarians

This summer, many Calgarians are looking for a place to get away that's affordable and close to home, yet feels like a resort.

CottageClub Ghost Lake is a recreational community just outside Calgary that offers the best of both worlds — sandcastles included.

Since January 2016, the masterplanned resort community by Lamont Land Developments has nearly surpassed lot sales of the past two years combined, a testament to the quality and value of the homes.

"This is the perfect place for Calgarians who are looking for a place to have a real, relaxing getaway," says Don Stengler, project manager of CottageClub Ghost Lake. "It's perfect for families looking for a place to enjoy together, and a great alternative for snowbirds too."

Just 35 minutes west of Calgary, CottageClub feels worlds away. Rocky Mountain lake-side setting provides a freshwater lake, private beach, boat launch, abundant green space and trails, and a residents' recreation centre — all ideal for year-round enjoyment.

"Our brand new recreation centre just opened and is already incredibly popular with residents, adding to the community feel,"



The Lamont Land team makes a splash in the new recreation centre pool at CottageClub. CONTRIBUTED

says Stengler.

The development is now offering a fine selection of lot and cottage packages available this year, with new show cottages opening soon.

Lots are available from \$154,900 plus GST, with several ownership options available. Condo fees are just \$163 per month.

"CottageClub is a special community to be a part of," says Stengler.

For more information, go to cottageclub.ca.



Renovating? Your place for DIY floors

Summertime is the season for do-it-yourself renovations. For many, that means taking on the challenge of installing new flooring.

If you're renovating your home this summer, make sure you choose the right flooring for the room you're renovating, according to Sandy Sangster, owner of Calgary Flooring Designs, a provider of high-quality flooring options in Calgary.

"You'll want to make sure you get the right flooring for how you're going to use that room in your house," explains Sangster. "Some hard-

wood is beautiful, for example, but you need to consider that it may be harder to maintain than other types of flooring. Materials like luxury vinyl tile and plank are great if you're installing it yourself because they're durable, attractive, easy to install and we offer them at a great price point. We have hundreds of types, and top-quality brands."

When you're looking for quality flooring, there's no better place in the city than Calgary Flooring Designs. The store carries floors including hardwood, engineered hardwood, carpet,

laminate, and tiles.

If you need advice, the knowledgeable staff at Calgary Flooring Designs are there to help. The team can tell you which types of flooring will be a good fit for your space and your budget.

They'll also help you select the flooring that works with your level of expertise.

Alternatively, experienced installers are available if you're looking for professional flooring services.

For more information, visit Calgary Flooring Designs at 105G 58 Ave SE, Calgary.

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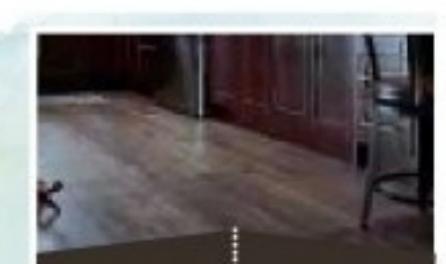
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Give your summer guests a great night's sleep

When you have guests in town, the most important hospitality to show them is a great night's sleep, according to Charlie Gouldsborough, owner of Simmons Mattress Gallery in Calgary.

"You can show your guests a great time in Calgary, but if they're not getting a good night's sleep, they aren't going to enjoy themselves," Gouldsborough says. "It's essential to give your guests a comfortable place to sleep so they can make the most of their trip."

If you don't have room for a full guest suite, getting a sleep chest is a great alternative for ensuring your visitors sleep soundly.

The fold-up bed is great for smaller living spaces, since they can easily fold up into a compact cabinet for storage. Unlike a Murphy bed, a sleep chest can be moved around your home easily.

"A Sleep Chest can be put anywhere in your home where you're looking to make more space for a guest. When they're folded,

they look just like a chest of drawers, so they don't take up much floor space. They work well in an office or multi-purpose room."

Simmons Mattress Gallery carries a wide range of Sleep Chest cabinets that convert into full beds with high-quality, six-inch memory foam mattresses. They're available in six styles and six colours and come in double and queen sizes.

The sleep chests are a stark contrast to the usual sofa bed, which is notorious for being uncomfortable.

"With sofa beds, the sofa is the first priority and the bed is an afterthought," says Gouldsborough. "Sleep chests, on the other hand, are designed specifically to provide a great night's sleep. They're a great option for you to make sure your guests enjoy their stay."

Simmons Mattress Gallery sells the best sleep chest beds on the market, with several high-quality options available. The company has been selling them for nearly a decade,



ISTOCK

only carrying chest beds that are made to high quality standards in their materials and construction.

Simmons Mattress Gallery is located at 7145 11 Street SE in Calgary. Find the store online at agoodnightsleep.ca.

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GRAB SUMMER WITH THESE SIX UNFORGETTABLE UNIQUE ALBERTA STAYS

Summer is here, but it won't last long. So plan a weekend getaway with friends or family to discover some truly unique places to stay in Alberta and make some memories that will last a lifetime.



Back to Nature Retreat

Bed-and-breakfast retreats don't come more cozy or welcoming than this. A majestic post-and-beam log home built by TV's Timber Kings is the backdrop for a memorably relaxing trip into the quiet forests north of Cochrane. But it's not all silent and slow. After exploring nearby Winchell Lake and walking the on-site perennial garden, head to the nearby town of Water Valley, a small town with a liveliness that defies its quaint look: WV Days on Aug. 13 will remind you what's great about small towns. Make sure to keep enough time for a trip to nearby Fallentimber Meadery and a glass of locally made honey-wine and,

if you plan your trip right, indulge in Rootstock, the meadery's field-to-table festival of food and drink, also taking place on Aug. 13.

backtonatureretreat.com
fallentimbermeadery.ca

Peace River Cabins

Most folks wouldn't put the words "mighty" and "peace" together but they fit perfectly when describing this beautiful region of northern Alberta. And in the midst of Mighty Peace Country lies the hidden gem of Peace River Cabins & Outdoors. With so many things to do, this is more than a weekend getaway so plan accordingly. Book a cottage or a cabin or bring the RV. Tent and trailer works too. Rent a canoe or go on a guided paddle on the Peace. Go fishing. Hike the riverbanks and surrounding hills. Or just kick back with a good book and enjoy the mighty peace.

peacerivercanada.com

Bar Diamond Guest Ranch

Need room to roam? How about 34,000 acres in the Canadian Badlands? Ninety minutes north of Medicine Hat, close to the Saskatchewan border, sprawls the Bar Diamond Guest Ranch. Stay in the original Bar Diamond Lodge, built in 1903 from logs that escaped a huge boom up river and were hauled one at a time by horse and buckboard. Or, if modern is your thing, book a room in the Uplands Lodge. After a day exploring the badlands on horseback or gliding the Red Deer River on a jet boat, settle in for some down-home western cooking and then share your day's adventures around a crackling fire.

bardiamondguestranch.ca

Aspen Crossing

Looking for the perfect blend of rustic indulgence? A short drive southeast of Calgary, just west of Mossleigh on Hwy 24 is a delightful train-themed campground and recreation area. Staying in a beautifully appointed cabin is one thing, but when it happens to be a fully refurbished caboose car, you're in for a truly unique stay. There are three caboose cabins to choose from, each with its own private deck, gas barbecue and fire pit. Inside is total luxury.



Stroll over to the restored Pullman dining car for dinner. Pick up a souvenir at the gift shop and try not to spend all your money in the glorious garden centre.

aspencrossing.com

Aurum Lodge

About 45 km west of Nordegg is one of the province's best known ecotourism destinations. Aurum Lodge overlooks the pristine waters of Abraham Lake and provides a spectacular wilderness experience. The property is perfectly situated to explore Bighorn Country and Banff and Jasper national parks. Make it a long weekend – there's a two-night minimum. Come back in winter and take a photography workshop to learn how to capture the suspended methane bubbles just beneath the surface of the frozen lake.

aurumlodge.com

Mount Engadine Lodge

In the heart of Kananaskis Country is local favourite, Mount Engadine Lodge – an inviting, intimate retreat an hour west of Calgary that accommodates no more than 19 guests at a time. If there's no room at the inn, see if you can book the yurt, high style comfort camping – where pets are welcome. Or just come for high tea between 2 and 5 p.m. Not your run-of-the-mill high tea, either: charcuterie of local meats and cheeses, as well as freshly baked treats, seasonal fruits and excellent coffee from a local Canmore roastery. Put your feet up on the porch and watch for wildlife wandering through the aptly-named Moose Meadows.

mountengadine.com

Want some more ideas? Find plenty of ways to grab summer at travelalberta.com.



GRAB SUMMER BY THE MOMENT



Two-time Stanley Cup winner Brad Richards has retired with 298 goals and 634 assists in 1,126 games

Jays offence rattles snakes

MLB

Encarnacion adds to home run tear at Arizona

Power hitting is the norm for the Toronto Blue Jays.

When they add a quality pitching performance, the results are impressive.

Josh Donaldson and Edwin Encarnacion each hit two-run homers and Marcus Stroman went eight strong innings in the Blue Jays' 10-4 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday.

Donaldson's homer off Patrick Corbin landed in the Chase Field swimming pool in the first inning. Encarnacion's soaring shot off Daniel Hudson, projected at 471 feet, landed far down the walkway beyond the left field seats in the eighth.

"That was the loudest ball I've ever witnessed live in a stadium, by far," Stroman said. "I was under (in the clubhouse) and I ran out and saw where it landed. It was pretty special. He's the man."

It was Encarnacion's 26th home run of the season and ninth in his last eight games at Chase.

"I haven't seen many like that," manager John Gibbons said. "He rakes it in this place."

Stroman (8-4) allowed a run and eight hits to help the Blue Jays sweep the two-game series. He bounced back from a rough outing in Oakland.

"I didn't command the ball



Edwin Encarnacion of the Blue Jays does a little bat toss after hitting a no-doubter to left field on Wednesday against the Diamondbacks. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

WEDNESDAY in Phoenix

10 **4**
BLUEJAYS D-BACKS

"We've always had that. That's kind of our trademark and you live and die with that,"

Gibbons said. "We're getting another guy back here Monday (Jose Bautista) that's pretty good at doing that, too."

Corbin (4-9) was tagged for six runs, five earned, on nine hits in 5-2/3 innings to fall to 0-7 at home.

But Arizona manager Chip Hale wasn't all that critical.

"Early, he was not getting

+ MORE SCORES

Mariners 6, White Sox 5

Leonys Martin hit his second home run of the game, a solo shot with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning that sent Seattle over Chicago White Sox.

Martin also hit a two-run drive in the second inning.

Cubs 6, Mets 2

Anthony Rizzo homered twice off Bartolo Colon, Kyle Hendricks pitched 6-1/3 scoreless innings and the Cubs beat New York in Chicago to take two of three in the rematch of last year's NLCS.

Indians 11, Royals 4

Tyler Naquin hit two of the Indians' five homers and had a career-high six RBIs, helping Cleveland rout AL Central-rival Kansas City.

Carlos Carrasco (7-3) only allowed one hit in six shutout innings to earn the road victory.

OLYMPICS

Russia expects decision by Sunday

Russia's top Olympic official expects a final decision by Sunday on whether the entire Russian team will be banned from next month's Games in Rio de Janeiro over allegations of state-sponsored doping.

The International Olympic Committee said its executive board will meet via teleconference on Sunday to consider the issue, but added that a final decision was expected "within the next seven days."

The IOC is examining the legal options of a blanket ban following a report by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren that accused Russia's sports ministry of overseeing doping of the country's Olympic athletes.

"The issue will be finally resolved by the end of this week, probably on Sunday," Russian Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukov said Wednesday at a meeting of the ROC.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport will issue its verdict Thursday on Russia's appeal to overturn the IAAF ban on its track and field athletes for the Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

387

Russia hopes to send a total of 387 athletes to Rio.

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Wounded Willy welcomes Stamps

CFL

Bombers QB feeling heat after 1-3 start

Drew Willy shrugged off criticism about his role in the Blue Bombers' struggling offence, saying it comes with the territory.

"That's how it goes as a quarterback," Willy said after Wednesday's walk-through to get ready for Thursday's home game against the Calgary Stampeders.

"I've seen a lot of things over my professional career, whether I was the backup or whether I was on practice squad or whether I was the starter."

"I've seen some of the best quarterbacks to have ever played the game go through some stuff."

The "stuff" Willy is going through this season has already included boos from his hometown fans and calls for backup Matt Nichols as the CFL team sits with a 1-3 record.

Willy said he gets a lot of support from other quarterbacks around the league.

"It's kind of a small fraternity. (We) kind of talk about things by yourselves that maybe the outside doesn't understand."

Calgary quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell said he hasn't personally talked to Willy about the topic, but he knows how the tide can turn.

"Fans are fickle, and that's what they are," Mitchell said.



Quarterback Drew Willy is feeling the heat these days from both opposing defences and Bomber Nation. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS



To Drew, I would just say, 'Stay confident. Be the guy you are and just keep playing football.'

Bo Levi Mitchell



"They love you for a minute, they hate you the next. They can't wait for the next guy to come up because (it's) a new changing face."

"To Drew, I would just say, 'Stay confident. Be the guy you are and just keep playing football.'"

are and just keep playing football."

Winnipeg's offence under new co-ordinator Paul LaPolice has averaged 20 points through four games, eighth in the nine-team league, even though

it's added such talent as receivers Weston Dressler and Ryan Smith and running back Andrew Harris.

Mitchell has Calgary's offence averaging 26.7 points through three games for third place, but the club sports a 1-1-1 record.

Mitchell is 69 of 107 for 910 yards, five TDs and one pick through three games. He's completed eight passes of more than 30 yards.

The Stampeders are coming off a bye week with a history of success. They're on a 13-game win streak after a break, including seven of those on the road.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VOLLEYBALL

Canada unveils beach team for Rio

When volleyball player Sarah Pavan makes her Olympic debut next month in Rio, her transition from the court to the beach will have come full circle.

The 29-year-old from Kitchener, Ont., spent some 20 years playing the indoor game but when Canada failed to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics she decided to make the shift to sand.

She teamed with Heather Bansley of Waterdown, Ont., in 2013 and the two head into Rio as Canada's top-ranked beach volleyball team.

But the transition for Pavan hasn't been easy.

She said the shift required re-training her body to move and perform differently than she'd been used to playing indoors.

"The technical skills themselves are very different," she said Wednesday at the official unveiling of the Canadian team in Toronto. "A lot of people say, 'Well, it's still volleyball,' but they're two different sports."



Sarah Pavan GETTY IMAGES

For the first time since beach volleyball was added to the Olympic program in 1996, Canada is sending a full quota of two teams per gender to the Games. Pavan and Bansley will be joined on the women's side by Victoria's Jamie Broder and Toronto's Kristina Valjas. On the men's side it will be Chaim Schalk of Red Deer, Alta., and Calgary's Ben Saxton, and Richmond Hill, Ont., duo Josh Binstock and Sam Schachter.

Canada has only one beach volleyball medal, a bronze won by the men's team of John Child and Mark Heese at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC

Mendes gets 2-year ban for 'big mistake'



UFC 145-pound title three times, losing twice to Jose Aldo and once to Conor McGregor. The Northern California native has lost three of his last four fights overall, including a first-round knockout loss to Frankie Edgar in his most recent bout Dec. 11.

Mendes said on Twitter last month that he "didn't do my homework, and that was a big mistake."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC featherweight contender Chad Mendes has been suspended for two years after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency announced the sanction Wednesday. USADA administers the UFC's anti-doping policy.

USADA said Mendes tested positive for a growth hormone-releasing hexapeptide in an out-of-competition test conducted May 17.

Mendes (17-4) is suspended until June 10, 2018, when he will be 33 years old.

Mendes has fought for the

IN BRIEF

Canada women top China

Teenage midfielder Jessie Fleming scored a highlight-reel goal in the sixth minute to give Canada a 1-0 win over China on Wednesday in Paris in its penultimate outing before the Rio Olympics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caps, Johansson strike deal

The Washington Capitals narrowly avoided arbitration with Marcus Johansson, re-signing the forward to a \$13.75 million, three-year contract.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-doping lab given OK for Rio Games

The World Anti-Doping Agency said Wednesday it has reinstated the laboratory that will carry out drug testing for the Rio Olympics.

The lab was shuttered last month for what WADA called "nonconformity with International Standard for Laboratories."

Olivier Niggli, director general of WADA, said in a statement the lab would be running "optimally" when the Olympics open on Aug. 5.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Chicken Chili Burger

PHOTO: MAYA VISNEVET

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Even if you're rushed, do not skip the crema on this zesty burger.

Ready in

Prep time: 20 minutes
Total time: 45 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 clove garlic, minced really fine
 - 1/2 red onion, minced fine
 - 1 tsp cumin
 - 1 Tbsp chili powder
 - Pinch of salt and pepper
 - 1 egg, whisked
 - 1 lb ground chicken
 - 4 thin slices of cheddar
 - 3/4 to 1 cup guacamole
 - Lettuce, tomato and whatever else you like on a burger
 - 4 buns
- Crema**
- 1 small (250 ml) container of sour cream
 - 1/4 cup fresh lime juice

- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- Pinch of salt and pepper

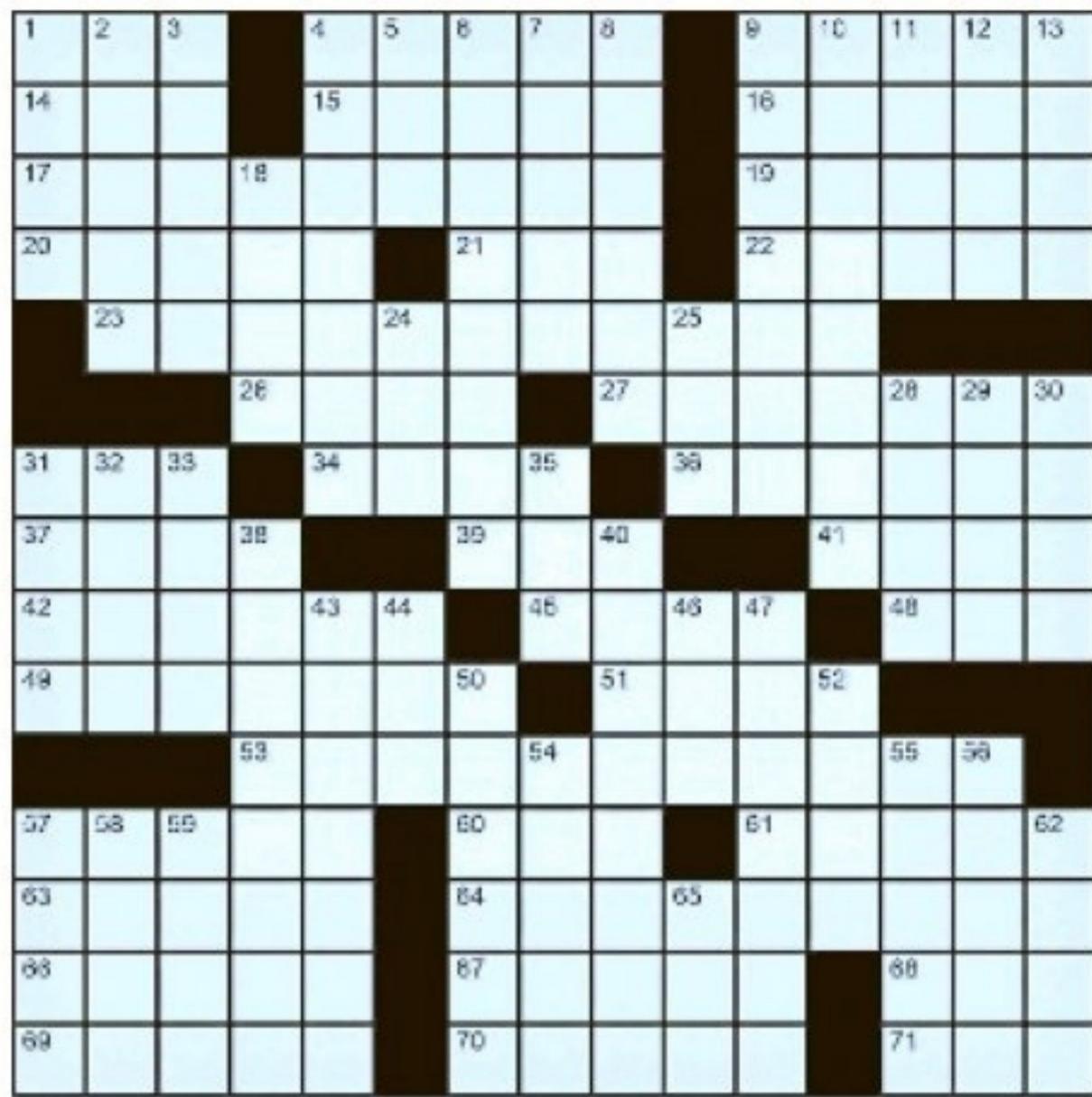
Directions

1. In a bowl, stir together the Crema ingredients. In a large bowl, combine ground chicken, garlic, onion, cumin, chili powder, egg, salt and pepper. Shape into patties.
2. Add a touch of oil to your pan and warm over medium heat. Put patties in and allow to cook on one side for about 5 minutes. Flip them and cook 2 or 3 minutes before placing the cheese on top. Cover pan to help the cheese melt. Use a meat thermometer to make sure the internal temperature is 165 F.
3. Toast the buns. Spread Crema on the bottom bun, add lettuce, burger, guac and top with the bun.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN**ACROSS**

1. Mr. Ocasek
4. Anwar _ (Former Egyptian President)
9. Bug's landing spot on a flower
14. Spanish 'bear'
15. City in Australia
16. Reflection
17. Guitar finger-ing notation
19. Taken-back vehicles
20. Jeweller's unit
21. Caesar's 1002
22. " _ you clever!"
23. Northern Ontario town where filmmaker James Cameron was born in 1954
26. Gladiator's 552
27. Pieces in Bryan Adams' wardrobe
31. USA state
34. Beginning as two-by-two march-ers in song...
36. Handbook
37. Drug deal buster, for short
39. Mystery novel-ist Ms. Grafton
41. Ms. Gershon
42. Greatest extent
45. Chg. card per-centages
48. Li'l Austral-i-an state
49. Ink pad user
51. Kind of fresh-water fish
53. Magician
57. Finely chop
60. Impair
61. Madagas-car animal
63. Construe
64. July 22nd to July 24th, 2016: Lumberjack



Heritage Festival des _ (Annual bilingually-titled event in #23-Across)
69. Mustard brand
70. Looks as though
71. Clairvoy-ance, e.g.

- DOWN**
1. US campus mil. program
 2. "Wicked Game" singer Chris
 3. Hooded snake
 4. Pancakes flipper
 5. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
 6. Music store

- items: 2 wds.
7. Halls-with-sky-lights
8. Just-one-deity believer
9. Flesh-chomping fish
10. Coming forth
11. Record
12. 1957 Igor Stra-

*** IT'S ALL IN THE STARS** Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
A friend might throw you a curve-ball or do something you least expect today. However, you also might meet someone new and unusual — who knows?

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today your relations with authority figures are a bit unpredictable. You don't know if you should stay or jump. Because you don't know, do nothing.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will love to suddenly travel today; however, travel plans are unpredictable. Enjoy meeting people from other cultures and different backgrounds. Enjoy learning something new.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something having to do with shared property or inheritances will be unpredictable today. Knowing this, make it a point to do your home-work and be on top of things.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You might make a new friend today, or a friend or partner might do something that surprises you. This is an exciting day with lots of electricity in the air!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your ambition is strong today, and so is your intuition. Trust your hunches. Because you feel so independent, you might not be keen to cooperate with others. Hmm, is this wise?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A sudden invitation to a social event will delight you today. Sports events might have unexpected results, because today is a bit of a crap-shoot. Nevertheless, it's a fun day!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might buy something new and high-tech for your home today. Alternatively, something at home might break down. Grrr. That's because your home routine will have some surprises.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You're full of bright, clever, innovative ideas today. Why not write them down so that later, you can run them up the flag-pole to see if anyone salutes?

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might have a clever idea about how to boost your income today. Likewise, you spontaneously might buy something, especially something hightech, a vid-eogame or perhaps modern art.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you feel ambitious, impulsive and restless! That's why all kinds of spontaneous suggestions will appeal to you. "I'm ready!"

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a restless day for you, because you want something to happen and you're not sure what. But you want to break free from routine and find some new thrills.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

1	3	8	7			
7			6	2	3	1
7	6					9
8					3	5
5						
9	8	3			4	
			9	8	1	7

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

5	2	1	6	8	7	3	9	4
3	6	9	4	2	1	5	8	7
4	8	7	9	5	3	6	2	1
2	9	4	5	6	8	7	1	3
6	1	8	3	7	4	2	5	9
7	3	5	2	1	9	8	4	6
1	5	3	7	4	2	9	6	8
8	7	2	1	9	6	4	3	5
9	4	6	8	3	5	1	7	2

